

Russia Out to Arrest Yandarbiyev

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Russia's top military commander in Chechnya on Wednesday ordered the arrest of Chechen leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, Interfax news agency quoted the Russian military press center in Chechnya as saying.

The agency said Moscow's troops were delivering air strikes against his headquarters in the village of Mehkety in southern Chechnya, which had been sealed off.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



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Syria Blames Mossad for Saudi Blast

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A Syrian daily on Wednesday blamed the Israeli external secret services for being behind a bomb attack on a U.S. military housing compound in Saudi Arabia which killed 19 U.S. servicemen.

"Who profited from such an act at that precise moment and who has the means and the circumstances," the daily *Ath-Thawra* said, replying "Mossad, yes Mossad."

Riyadh, Damascus Urge World to Pressure Israel on Peace Process

Arab League: Netanyahu Playing With Fire

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and Syria on Wednesday called for world pressure to force the new Israeli rightwing government to respect the peace process with the Arabs and ensure its success.

"The Saudi kingdom and Syria urge the concerned countries, the United Nations and international institutions *to join efforts to make* Israel respect the principles of peace and honor its commitment," a joint statement said.

The two sides expressed their commitment to UN land-for-peace resolutions 242, 338 and 425 following a meeting of the joint Saudi-Syrian committee in the Saudi capital.

Such resolutions guarantee "the total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, South Lebanon and all Palestinian territories, including the city of Jerusalem," they said.

Riyadh and Damascus said the "continuation of the peace process and the resumption of peace negotiations required a commitment to *apply the principles of peace*, particularly resolutions 242, 338 and 425."

Saudi Arabia offered its sup-

(Contd on Pg.14)

FALOUJI:

Unity Among Muslims a Must

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — "I feel happy to see a Muslim and powerful country like Iran and witness the gathering of the Muslim states in this meeting," Imad Falouji, Palestine's Minister of Post and Telecommunications told here yesterday.

Talking to the *Tehran Times*, Falouji who is on his first visit to the capital said, "I hope we can witness fruitful results of the Third Meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers of Organiza-

(Contd on Pg.14)

President Inaugurates 3rd Meeting of OIC PTT Ministers

TEHRAN (IRNA) — The Third Meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opened here yesterday morning with inaugural speech of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

During the two-day ministerial meeting, representatives from 52 OIC member states will review the major telecommunications issues of the Islamic countries and explore practical ways to promote international cooperation in this regard.

Earlier the expert teams of the participating countries in a two-day session reviewed approvals of the two previous ministerial meetings, practical methods of implementing the agreements reached, the agenda of the Tehran meeting and the draft resolution.

Exchange of data and information, establishment of the space agency of the Islamic countries,

(Contd on Pg.14)

Netanyahu Drives Final Nail into Coffin of Peace Process

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drove the fianl nail in the coffin of peace process when he took hardline stand on such key qestions as continuation of Jewish settlements, withdrawing from the occupied territories and the question of holding a meeting with Yasser Arafat during his meeting with President Bill Clinton for the first time since taking office.



WASHINGTON, DC, United States (July 9): U.S. President Bill Clinton (R) listens as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) answers a question during a joint press conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (AFP PHOTO)

Bill Clinton's support for the hawkish premier will bolster his position. It is an irony that the U.S. calls for peace but at the same time supports a government which is out to undo the peace process.

Accoring to an AFP report the prime minister offered no prom-

(Contd on Pg.14)

Following the international developments and learning about the role of telecommunications in social development, different Muslim countries embarked on various efforts to develop telecommunications facilities. Due to these efforts, today we witness different levels of telecommunications developments in the countries.

In 1994, Turkey with total population of 61 million and telephone penetration factor of 20.7 took the advantage of almost 13 million telephone numbers and 175,000 mobile telephones.

Meanwhile, Egypt with its telephone penetration factor standing at 4.2, and with the same population as Turkey, had access to 2.5 million telephone numbers and 8,100 mobiles in 1994.

In the same period, the Islamic Republic of Iran with penetration factor of 7, had access to 4.4 million telephone numbers and 16,620 mobiles.

Meanwhile, additional to the gap which has already existed, Turkey and Iran adding more 1,717,372 and 719,580 telephone numbers respectively stood among the first five countries which were forerunners of telecommunications development in the world.

It was at the same time when Egypt, increasing its telephone numbers by 196,052 others, stood at 31st place in the telecommunication development table in 1994.

Thus, the gap is increasingly widening.

Malaysia, with its telephone penetration factor standing at 14.7 enjoys 2.5 telephone numbers and more than 57,000 mobiles. Having total population of 19.5 million and with its telecommunication growth rate standing at 18.8 percent in 1994, Malaysia can be compared with the Saudi Arabia.

The telecommunication growth rate of Saudi Arabia, with telephone penetration of 9.8 and with 1.7 million telephone numbers and 20,000 mobiles, in 1994 stood at 6.2 percent.

On the other hand, Afghanistan with the same population as of Saudi Arabia, 19 million, and enjoying telephone penetration of 00.15 in 1994 had access to only 29,000 telephone numbers.

Indonesia with its population exceeding 191 million has 2.4 million telephone numbers and 112,000 mobiles. It has had considerable improvements in satellite telecommunications.

Pakistan with 124 million total population and 2.2 million telephone numbers and 42,661 mobiles enjoys a telephone penetration factor of 1.8.

Indonesia with 23.6 percent and Pakistan with 20.5 percent were among the countries which had the most considerable telecommunications growth in 1994.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh with 125 million population had access to only 270,000 telephone numbers and 1200 mobiles in 1994. Its penetration factor stood at 00.22 and its telecommunication growth rate at 00.3 percent in 1994.

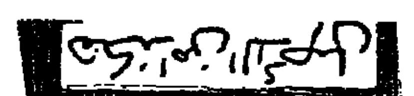
Despite the current differences, all the 52 Islamic countries whose penetration factor ranges from 33.4 in the United Arab Emirates to 00.8 percent in Chad, have found out about the fact that telecommunications and national success are intertwines.

The presence of the Islamic countries, including Iran, Turkey and Indonesia, among those countries which had the most telecommunications growth rate in 1994 itself proves the fact.

Undoubtedly, it is a vital need for the Islamic countries to try to make narrow the gap among their telecommunications development because this century is called telecommunications era and because we are living in a world wherein power is in the hands of those societies which use powerful telecommunications network and informatic.

In such a situation the Islamic countries are required to equip themselves with the modern telecommunication network.





هكذا من الأصل

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In The Name of Allah

And abandon open and secret sin; surely they who earn sin shall be recompensed with what they earned.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:120)

OPINION

Netanyahu Reiterates "Declaration of War"

Since the right-wing Israeli Likud Party won the May elections, many Arab officials as well as analysts have been waiting for the outcome of Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington hoping that the U.S. might convince him to soften his stance on the peace process.

In his address to the Congress Wednesday, Netanyahu touched on three sensitive issues which have been considered vital for the continuation of Middle East peace.

On the question of Jerusalem, he strongly ruled out any division of the city saying that it will remain the "undivided, indivisible" capital of Israel: "there will never be a redivision of Jerusalem, never."

On the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, he said, Israel insists "on the right of Jews to live anywhere in the land," which implies that the expansion of the Jewish settlements will continue. In his meeting with Clinton on Sunday, the premier of the Jewish state had said that Israel would not withdraw from the Golan Heights and other occupied territories.

This is the restatement of what brought him to office in May elections.

Netanyahu has subjected the continuation of the peace process with three conditions: security of Israel; reciprocation on the part of the Arabs; and democracy.

If security is a vital issue for the aggressor Israel, it is equally vital for its neighbors whose territories have remained under the occupation of the Zionist regime for decades. The Zionist regime should realize that occupation of land of its neighbors is no guarantee for its security.

As far as the reciprocation is concerned, in the first instance, Israel itself should be ready to reciprocate: Arabs too need security. In order to guarantee their security, Israel should withdraw from all occupied territories and pledge not to cast a covetous eye on the Arab lands again.

So far as democracy in Arab countries is concerned, Israel has no right to interfere in their internal affairs. Instead of shedding crocodile tears for the lack of democracy in the Arab countries, Netanyahu should allow all Palestinians from all parts of the world to return to their motherland. Then a "democratic" plebiscite should be held to decide the nature of the regime there in order to put an end to the hostility through the "democratic" method of referendum.

What the Arabs should bear in mind is that despite rhetoric statements, the U.S. is not a friend of the Arabs. During his address to the Congress which was tantamount to a "declaration of war" against the Arabs, Netanyahu several times received the standing and applauding of the Congress members. This happened while a number of Arab ambassadors were present in the Congress. No Arab ruler has ever been received by the American statesmen to that extent.

As Netanyahu said in his address, besides military assistance, Israel has been receiving "generous" aid from the U.S. for which he said, Israel is "deeply grateful." Probably the financial aids rendered to Israel have been met by the petrodollars that the Arab states have been spending on arms buildup without shooting a single bullet at Israel.

In his address, Netanyahu repeated the same absurd accusations against Iran that Bill Clinton and Warren Christopher have been repeating over the past several years. We do not intend to answer to his nonsensical accusations, for almost all impartial countries of the world confirm that Israel is the embodiment of state-sponsored terrorism. It has 200 nuclear warheads in its arsenal and has not allowed any international body to inspect its nuclear installations. It has violated all international rules and regulations on human rights.

Given Netanyahu's "declaration of war," the ball is in the court of the Muslim countries. It is time the Arab, Muslim countries convene a summit to draw a practical strategy to confront the "war" that Israel has waged on them. Reliance on the U.S. can no more help the Muslims. Muslim countries have to rely on themselves. Time is running out; the OIC should convene a summit to tackle the situation as soon as possible.

Besharati Calls On Turkey to Apologize for Violation of Iran's Airspace

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, here Tuesday, called for Turkey's official apology and paying compensation to Islamic Republic for its June 26 violation of Iran's airspace.

According to IRNA, the interior minister made the call in a meeting with the Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Erol Caker.

"The Iranian people are very much angry over the incident, and the government of the Islamic Republic which is pursuing the issue awaits a satisfactory answer from the Turkish government," said Besharati.

Iran, he said, likes to see the two countries' common border as a "border of peace and friendship", but, he regretted, "unfortunately, Turkish measures could damage this friendship and expansion of bilateral ties.

"If Turkey wants good relations with Iran, it should avoid all such acts," he added.



BESHARATI

Saying that support for opponents of governments will not benefit anybody, Besharati made it clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always condemned any kind of terrorist activities since it is the prime victim of terrorism in the world,"

Caker in reply, referred to the two countries' historic relations and friendship and expressed hope that through common efforts the two sides will be able to remove the obstacles in the way of full-fledged expansion of bilateral relations.

On Ankara's foreign policy, Caker said that it is based on mutual respect and good neighborly relations. "We are ready to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran on security and border issues in the framework of bilateral accords," he added.

Regarding the June 26 violation of Iranian airspace by Turkish helicopters in the Silvana region of West Azarbaijan, resulting in the death of six Iranian civilians and wounding of 15 others, the Turkish official said that his country understands the sensitiveness of the Iranian government in this regard.

He said the issue would be probed by the Turkish military and by the joint security session of the two countries, and after the matter becomes clear those responsible for the incident would be punished.

Tehran-Accra News Cooperation Discussed

TEHRAN (IRNA) – The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Communication Affairs Morteza Sarmadi and Ghana's Minister of Information Kofi Totobi Quakyi in Accra Tuesday reviewed avenues to promote bilateral ties.

Sarmadi stressed that the Third World countries should exchange news and information with each other in order to confront the Zionist propaganda.

Referring to the agreement reached between the two countries' news agencies, Quakyi stated that both countries enjoy great potentials for promotion of relations including coopertion within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

He expressed hope that Tehran-Accra cooperation in the field of news and media will further expand through exchange of news delegations.

Preservation of Regional Security Essential for Development

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Preservation of peace and border security and maintaining peaceful relations with neighbors are among the principal policies of the Islamic Republic, said the Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi in Sanandaj, Kurdestan Province, on Tuesday.

HABIBI

In his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the Kurdestan Cement Plant, Habibi said that since Iran has joined the exporter countries, logic requires that regional states live in a state of peace and security, an IRNA report said.

On the industrial progress of the country, he said self-confidence was among the pre-requisites of development, and underlined that today the Iranian craftsmen and experts have acquired the belief that they are able to create and produce.

Present at the ceremony was also Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh who said that the Iranian border provinces would be exporting their products to neighboring states in a near future.

He expressed hope that by expanding relations with other countries the way would be paved for the better use of such facilities.

Syrian, Sudanese Ministers Comment on Telecommunication Development

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Syrian and Sudanese Telecommunications ministers, here to attend the Third Meeting of the Oraganization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Telecommunication commented on the ways to make progress in the field.

Speaking to IRNA on Wednesday, the Syrian Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Radwan Martini said that Muslim countries share common problems in the postal and telecommunication services that should be solved.

The Muslim countries would not need to import telecommunication devices, equipment and technology from the West if they cooperate and support one another in this field.

Martini said that Muslim nations should seek more practical and realistic solutions in order to overcome their present problems.

He added that expansion of postal and telecommunication services would pave the way for more links among Muslims and would meet their requirements.

Sudanese Minister of Telecommunications Seyyed al-Husseini opined that cooperation in the field of communication among Islamic countries should be strengthened through proper plannings.

He called for promotion of trade relations among Islamic countries and exchange of technical know-how and industrial machineries among the OIC members.

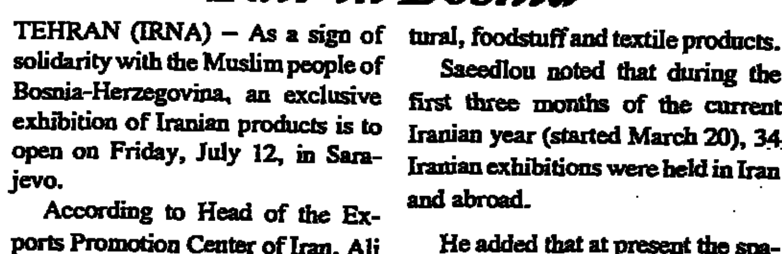
Al-Husseini expressed hope that the Islamic Republic's efforts in bringing the OIC post, telephone and telegraph ministers together will bear fruit and that the Islamic countries would become further united.

Pollution Threatening Caspian Sea Ecosystem

BANDAR ANZALI, Gilan Province (IRNA) – Pouring of thousands of tons of contaminated materials into Caspian Sea waters every year, has endangered the water resources and the regional ecosystem, said Dr. Miri, an expert at the Fisheries Research Center here on Tuesday.

He indicated that over 2 to 5 tons of heavy metals, 60 to 200 tons of oil substances and 5 million tons of germs are polluting the Caspian Sea waters annually, in addition to 100,000 liters of chemical waste, agricultural poison, industrial sewages and various kind of detergents which find their way to the ecosystem of the Anzali Marsh every year.

Over 150,000 various kinds of fish were killed in the marsh last year.



Iran to Hold Exclusive Trade Fair in Bosnia

TEHRAN (IRNA) – As a sign of solidarity with the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, an exclusive exhibition of Iranian products is to open on Friday, July 12, in Sarajevo.

According to Head of the Exports Promotion Center of Iran, Ali



SAEEDLOU

Saeedlou, over fifty Iranian companies will be displaying their products at the 1,000 square-meter plot allotted for the exhibition.

He added that the exhibit, to be open till July 19, will also have a sales section for interested buyers of Iranian industrial, mineral, agricultural, foodstuff and textile products.

Saeedlou noted that during the first three months of the current Iranian year (started March 20), 34 Iranian exhibitions were held in Iran and abroad.

He added that at present the spacious exhibition ground in northern Tehran is hosting three separate specialized exhibits on electricity and electrical products, irrigation and environment protection.

Iran's Outgoing Ambassador Meets Qatari Officials

ABU DHABI (IRNA) – Iran's outgoing ambassador to Doha Seyed Baqer Sakhaei on Tuesday held talks with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jaber ath-Thani on bilateral ties and regional issues.

Referring to the friendly relations between Tehran and Doha, Ath-Thani called for development of bilateral cooperation.

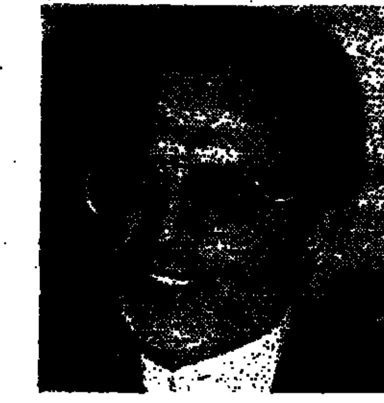
The Iranian diplomat also held separate talks with the Qatari minister of state for Cabinet affairs, the minister of energy and industry and the minister of municipal affairs and agriculture on issues of mutual interest.

Iran, China to Jointly Invest in Songon Copper Mines

SONGON, E. Azarbaijan Province (IRNA) – Iran and China will make joint investments in exploitation of Songon Copper Mines in Ahar, in this northwestern province, said Minister of Mines and Metals Hussein Mahlouji here Tuesday.

A barter trade agreement has been signed with China in this connection, he said, adding the two countries will jointly invest $350 million to exploit the mines.

The initial stages of the contract have been carried out and the executive operations are to start as of next year, Mahlouji added.



MAHLOUJI

Some $10 million has been allocated to the project this year, said the minister.

Gharazi Urges OIC Members to Expand Telecom Networks

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Minister of Post, Telephone and Telegraph Mohammad Gharazi here Wednesday underlined the need for member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to pay more attention to expanding their telecommunications industry, *IRNA reported.*

He voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with other OIC member states in telecommunications area.

Training of man power, exchange of technological know-how, making use of telecommunications potentials and exchange of information were major items brought up and discussed during the Experts Meeting of the Third OIC Ministerial Meeting in Tehran, the minister noted.

He further called for investment by the Islamic Development Bank to promote telecommunications networks of the Islamic countries and attention of OIC members to establishing telecommunications highways and joint satellite activities.

OPEC's Lukman Sees Oil Prices Steady Medium Term

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — OPEC Secretary General Rilwanu Lukman said on Sunday he expected oil prices to remain steady over the next months but declined to predict when Iraqi oil exports might resume.

"Regarding Iraq, we will have to wait and see what happens...we (OPEC) have done what we can to *ensure a stable (crude oil) price and* the price is stable," Lukman told Reuters, during a break in a high-level meeting of Central and Eastern European leaders in Salzburg, Austria.

The United States last week rejected a plan submitted by Iraq for distributing food and medicine under an "oil-for-food" scheme, removing the specter of an early resumption of Iraqi oil exports and fuelling a price rally on world oil markets.

In May, Iraq and the United Nations signed a deal allowing Baghdad to sell $2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy basic food and medical supplies.

Lukman said OPEC would review the situation at its next scheduled ministerial meeting in Vienna in November.

Laying of Gas Pipeline Between Iran, Turkmenistan to Start Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Construction work on a pipeline to transfer Turkmenistan's gas to the Islamic Republic of Iran is due to start by the Iranian Oil Ministry, the Iranian ambassador to Turkmenistan disclosed on Wednesday.

The ambassador, Mehdi Mir Abu-Talebi, added that preliminary studies on the route of the pipeline via the Caspian Sea coasts has been completed and required equipment for laying down the pipeline has been transferred to the site, IRNA reported.

The 200-km-long pipeline will be put into operation by the end of 1997 and in the first stage is to transfer 1.5 million cubic meters of natural gas to Iran annually, he said, adding that the capacity of the pipeline can be increased to eight million cubic meters a year.

According to the ambassador, this is one of the most significant projects to be carried out jointly by the two countries.

Turkmenistan is the fourth biggest gas producer in the world which exports 70 billion cubic meters of gas every year.

Iran, Thailand Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Fishery

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Following the visit of Thailand's Deputy Agriculture Minister to Iran, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on fishery here yesterday, the Public Relations Office of Iran Fishery Company said.

According to the memorandum, the two sides agreed to exchange fishery experts in the near future. Thailand also agreed to encourage its private sector to boost ties with Iran through investment in shrimp cultivation.

The two sides also announced readiness to establish a joint fishing company in the near future. The Thai official expressed hope that *the two countries would strengthen* their ties in all possible fields.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, July 10.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,388	1,396	2,383	2,395
Austria	schilling	163	164	280	281
Belgium	(100)francs	5,568	5,600	9,559	9,607
Canada	dollar	1,276	1,284	2,191	2,202
Denmark	krone	297	299	511	513
France	franc	339	341	582	585
Germany	mark	1,146	1,153	1,968	1,978
Holland	guilder	1,022	1,028	1,754	1,763
Italy	(100)liras	114	115	196	197
Japan	(100)yen	1,580	1,589	2,712	2,726
Sweden	krone	261	263	448	450
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,711	2,727	4,654	4,677
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

SOURCES OF METALS IN ANCIENT ASIA

Part 2

By F. Khademi Nadooshan (Ph.D.), Cultural Heritage Organization

Evidence also exists that in Bazarak Kapisa Province and other early localities surface digging were conducted, albeit undated. In the high-yield region of Kabul and Logar many ancient copper mines of considerable deposit remain. High quality ores were observed mainly in hornblendic schists and those analyzed have copper contents ranging from 26 percent to 90 percent. Drummond described the remains of early copper mining activity 22 kilometers southeast of Kabul. Three old excavations blocked by stone and radish had apparently exploited for the presence of purple copper ores (probably bronite). Near or just above the spring was another block excavation into limestone and with copper-rich quartz vein numerous other block excavations were found in these localities, some of which were quite extensive with multiple level and galleries. The general mining methods was to make a small entrance about 0.9-1.2 meters followed boy digging in a sloping direction following the ore vine. Few provisions were made for drainage or for roof support and marks along the gallery walls indicate that sharp-pointed digging instruments were used. At the large mining site of Kohi Aeenuk Drummond observed vast quantities of slags. Also, remains of ancient houses built near the mines show that a thriving industry once existed and archaeological excavations such as this would shed much light on the early copper mining industry in Afghanistan. About 1.6 kilometers away the remains of another site where galleries where so high took on the appearance of caverns. Other early mines in the Kabul-Lagar region are similarly very deep and extensively so scaled out, indicating the fact that large amounts of ore were removed in the past. The miners were obviously able to work on the richer ores far below the surface. Though tough, these were difficult to reach and left the poorer quality of surface ores untouched. Soil drainage in the region is good and the relatively sophisticated mining technology meant that the miners were skilled and keen to using additional drainage. Adjacent forests provided the necessary timber supports for tunnels and wood required to make charcoal to be used in smelting. It has also been reported that large quantities of copper were removed from similar mines in the Ghilzai area in Zabul Province east of Kandahar by the time the British arrived in Afghanistan in the 19th century. However, mining continued to be carried out to a much lesser degree with much of the copper imported from India. One notable exception was in southern Afghanistan, in the vicinity of the Shah Maqsud range near Kandahar, where a rich copper deposit was discovered to have been exploited in the past. Up to the late 19th century additional high-quality deposits have been sited in an area 96 kilometers from Kandahar at Nish, but no information regarding the early mining work at this site is available. Deposits at Zandaiin Kandahar Province appear to have been dug in the past. Deposit contents showed chalchopyrite malachite and azurite with up to 5.2 percent copper. There are also reports of a mining site near Bela. Although a complete survey of all early mines in Afghanistan has never been carried out, it is clear that the country is rich in copper. Furthermore, its deposits are known to have been exploited in the past with a high degree of sophistication. It would not have been difficult in the pre- Islamic period for the region to supply all its copper needs and to have a surplus of the metal for export to the adjacent regions, particularly neighboring northwest Pakistan, which had a rather poor supply of copper. Although the northern and northwestern regions of Pakistan had a number of sparsely scattered copper deposits, they were considered economically unsuitable for modern geological survey due to their size and generally harsh environment making ore processing, smelting and transport extremely difficult.

The metal pillar in Delhi (India) which was erected in 4th century A.D. It has not rusted during all this while showing the level of the knowledge of the Indians of alloy making.

North of Afghanistan there are very small deposits of chalchopyrite and malachite at Gilgit, Dainyor Nala, Dikut and Pasu in the Lichi area, and south of Gilgit small occurrences of chalchopyrite have been found in association with sphalerite and galena (with up to 66 percent lead and silver). None of the deposits are considered significant, however, and there is no evidence to indicate that they were ever exploited. In the Dir district bordering northern Sawat similar small packets of copper deposits associated with prophyrite have been located and identified as chalchopyrite, bornite and malachite in quartz. The small surface packets may indicate that bigger deposits existed at greater depths but no evidence suggests that they were ever exploited. Although some copper sulfide exists in the Sawat Valley, they were very sparsely distributed and no extensive deposit of the mineral has been found. Only a number of small packets and tin veins of copper sulfide which does not form a major ore concentration was found. Chalchopyrite deposits, along with sulfide and pyrite in fractures within dioxide veins rarely rich a foot in width and no early mine workings have been reported in the area. It is apparent that these regions of Pakistan did not have any major local copper sources and are unlikely to have been able to produce metal to supply their domestic needs. It is therefore probable that any bronze produced in northwest Pakistan during the pre-Islamic period came primarily from Afghanistan. especially from the neighboring Kabul/Logar deposit or from the main trading centers of the pre-Islamic period. An analysis of the metal showed that the copper was produced in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, albeit less likely, sources of copper of artists north of Pakistan were the two major copper deposits in Baluchistan, more than 600 kilometers to the south. The first is by far the largest copper deposit reported in Pakistan, which is located in the Saidak area of the Chagai district in the extreme north west of the province bordering in Iran and Afghanistan. Carbonate and oxide ores are visible on many rock outcropping within the mineralized area. An analyses of Malachite samples from some of these rocks shows a copper content of around 0.4 percent but more more extensive deposits of chalchopyrite and other sulfide are found beneath the surface although the richer of two deposits there has been no reported evidence that it was actually worked in the past. Since the area is desert it would have been difficult to early miners to obtain enough fuel for major smelting operations. Early working have been definitely identified at the second deposit also in local Chagai district near Robat large heaps of copper slags have been found and copper sulfide ores there are said to have been worked in the distant past the only known mining site in the region it appears to have been on a small scale and primitively worked. Further a field some copper may have been important as various times from Iran-Kashmir.

Sources of copper: Iran

The copper mines of Iran were situated in the western mountain range of Zagros. At Sahand, Qara Dagh, Anarak, Damghan, Sar Cheshmeh near Kerman, Bafgh, Nain and Talah Yahya copper was found in abundance.

Tin: The most important tin utilized by early miners is cassatrite, an oxide mine (SnO) which can contain up to 78.6 percent tin. It is relatively rare specially in comparison to the other metal bearing the mineral it was frequently mines from river sand or gravels, where it appears a small black pebbles that are usually break down product of tin rich granite rock. Cassatrite is very resistance to weathering and has the high specific gravity, so through erosion process it tends to become concentrated in areas distant from its original sources. Below the surface, often in conjunction with copper sulfide, the tin sulfide mineral stainnite (Cu Fe Sn S), with a metallic grey appearance, also occurs. It too is found in association with granite rocks. After smelting the refining either cassatrite or stannite, the tin metal could be added to copper metal to produce bronze. Alternatively unprocessed tin minerals could be added to the copper mineral and reduced directly under charcoal in the melt without separating smelting procedure using the mineral directly in bronze production provides a more efficient recovery of the tin. That is present than is produced in the more cumbersome two-stage process. (CONCLUDED)

Movies on Screen

cinema: Tel:	Movie
Africa: 897171	: *Baazyha-ye Penhaan* (The Secret Games)
Asrejadid 1: 652550	: *Ziafat* (The Feast)
Asrejadid 2: 652550	: *Leyli ba Man Ast* (Leyli Is With Me)
Asrejadid 3: 652550	: *Mosaaferaan* (The Passengers)
Azadi: 627628	: *Leyli ba Man Ast* (Leyli Is With Me)
Farhang: 261205	: *Qesse'-ha ye Bazaar* (Bazaar Stories)
Golriz: 628713	: *Qesse'-ha ye Bazaar* (Bazaar Stories)
Esteqlal: 893942	: *Ziafat* (The Feast)
Kanoon: 836065	: *Qesse'-ha ye Bazaar* (Bazaar Stories)
Felestin: 6498126	: *Dakal* (The Watch Tower)
Qods: 894585	: *Qaanoun* (The Law)





"A Film a Day"

A Selection of Best Iranian Films 1995 - 1996

The Sweet Smell of Life

(Buye Khoshe Zendegi)

The Crew:

Director: Abolhassan Davoudi; **Producers:** Artfil; Farhang Cultural Institute; **Screenplay:** Mahmoud Jafari, A.Davoudi.

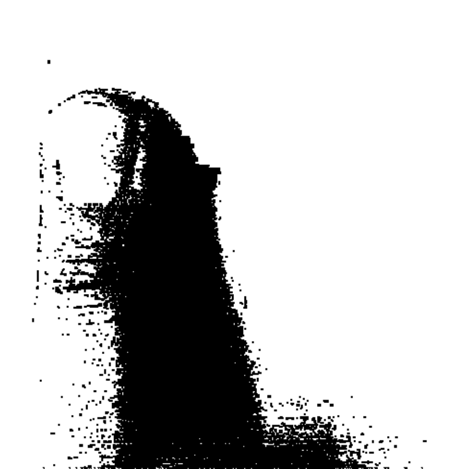


DAVOUDI

Alireza Khamse; **Cinematography:** Bahram Badakhshani; **Editing:** Bahram Dehghani; **Music:** Keivan Jahanshahi; **Set designer:** Ahmad Saket; **Make-up:** Bizhan Mohtasham; **Sound recordist:** Hashem Musavi; **Cast:** Alireza

(Contd on Pg. 15)





Ronaldo to Quit PSV For Barcelona or Inter

ROTTERDAM (Reuter) — Brazilian striker Ronaldo Looks set to leave Dutch Cup-holders PSV Eindhoven for either Barcelona or Inter Milan, Dutch ANP news agency said on Tuesday.

Former European champions PSV last week put a $20 million price tag on their star striker, bought from Cruzeiro for $6 million in August 1994.

ANP said Spanish giants Barcelona had matched the asking prices and that the two clubs had an 'agreement in principle'.

But PSV are also reported to have a 'gentleman's agreement' with Inter, giving the Italian serie a club first option on Ronaldo.

The 19-year-old striker has said he would like to play in Spain, following in the footsteps of fellow Brazilian Romario who scored 96 goals in 102 games for the Dutch side before signing for Barcelona in 1993.

"If Ronaldo wants to leave, then it's in everybody's best interests that he does so." ANP *quoted* PSV chairman Bill Mayer.

"We want to keep him here but he would have to want to stay and play for us," he said, adding that the club would keep Inter informed of developments.

The player, top scorer in the Dutch first division in his first season but injured for much of last season, is currently preparing with the Brazilian squad for the Atlanta Olympics.

Sousa Signs For Borussia Dortmund

DORTMUND, Germany (AFP) — Portuguese international Paulo Sousa signed a three year contract with German champions Borussia Dortmund here on Wednesday.

The 25-year old playmaker will replace Germany's mid-fielder Steffen Freund, who is out injured until the end of the year after tearing ligaments in his left knee during the euro 96 semi-final against England.

Dortmund chairman Michael Meier would not reveal the financial details of the contract, but indicated it was not higher than seven million Deutschmarks (4.5 million dollars).

Karpov and Kamsky Draw 17th Game

ELISTA, Russia (Reuter) — Russian grandmaster Anatoly Karpov and his challenger Gata Kamsky of the United States drew the 17th game of the World Chess Championship on Tuesday, leaving Karpov needing just one draw to keep the title.

The two players agreed to draw the 17th game without resuming it after Monday's adjournment.

Karpov, 45, leads his 22-year-old challenger, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1988, by 10 points to seven in the 20-game series.

Lockout Lifted as League, Players Agree

NEW YORK (Reuter) — The National Basketball Association on Tuesday lifted what was probably the shortest lockout in sports history after the league and its players agreed to finalise their collective bargaining agreement.

As a result, the players agreed to extend the moratorium on signings, negotiations and trades until Thursday at 5 p.m. (2100 GMT).

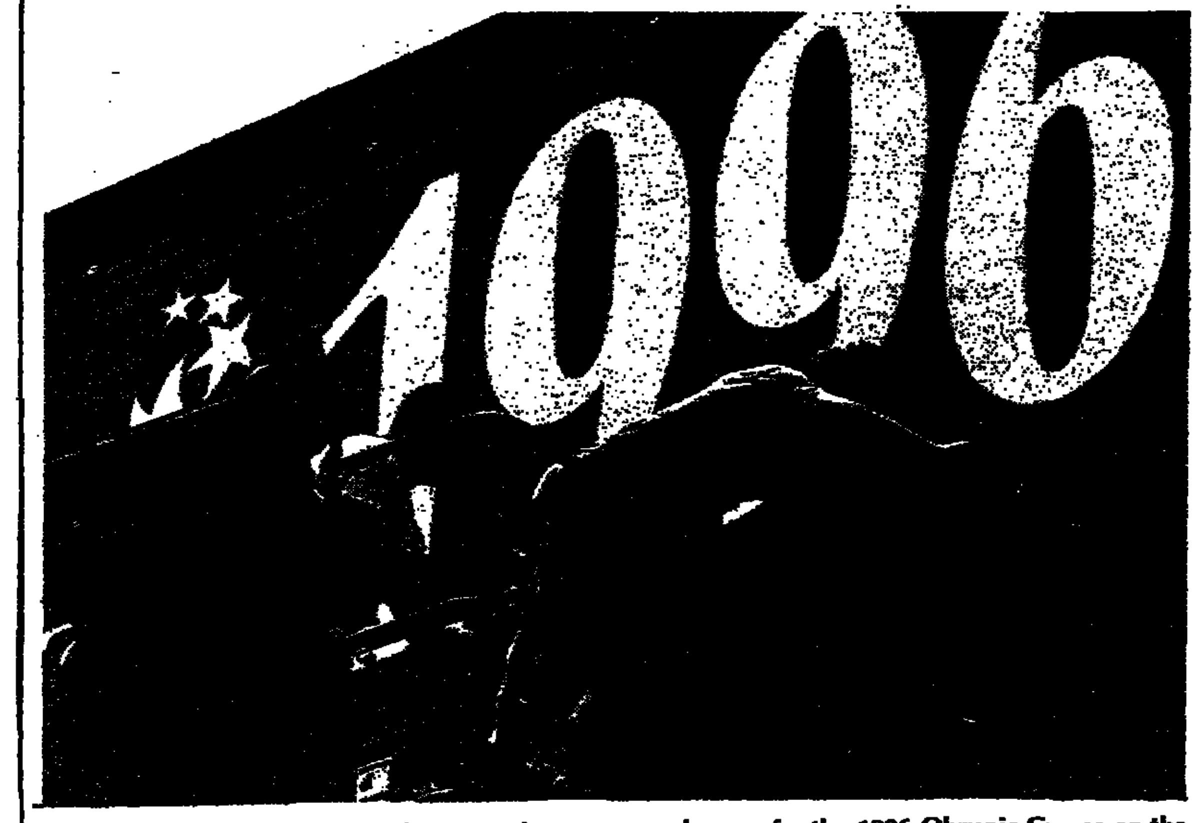
According to NBA executive vice president and chief legal officer Jeffrey Mishkin, both the league and the players association believe that, following additional conversations late this morning, all issues now appear to have been resolved and the parties are confident that a new agreement can be reduced to a final writing by Thursday afternoon.

Players' association lead attorney Ron Kempner told Espn Radio that an agreement was reached with the league a little more than an hour after the NBA imposed a lockout.

Under terms of the moratorium, teams are prohibited from conducting any player transactions or from negotiating or discussing terms of employment with any player. Teams are allowed, however, to conduct and participate in summer leagues and other normal basketball operations.

Superstars Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal and all-stars Reggie Miller, Gary Payton, John stockton, Juwan Howard, Alonzo Mourning and Dikembe Mutombo headline the free agent Bonanza.

NBA players have worked without a collective bargaining agreement since the end of the 1994-1995 season.



ATLANTA, GA, United States: (July 9): Workers put up a banner for the 1996 Olympic Games on the main recreation building at the Olympic village in Atlanta, July. The Olympics begin July 19.

(AFP PHOTO)

Olympic Flame Arrives in Savannah

SAVANNAH, Georgia (AFP) — Ten days before the centennial Olympics in Atlanta, the Olympic flame arrived in the state of Georgia, reaching Savannah by tall *ship where it was carried ashore by* a sailing champion.

The flame, which started its journey in Athens 74 days earlier, arrived in Los Angeles, the last US city to host the Summer Games, in April. It still has 2,880 kilometers (1,800 miles) to go in Georgia before it reaches Atlanta in time for the opening ceremonies on July 19.

The flame was carried ashore after its trip from Florida by Mark Reynolds, who won a yachting gold medal for the United States at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

The ceremony in Savannah's Forsyth Park was within sight of the Savannah Olympic Village, where yachting competitors and officials are housed.

Sailors from several teams, including Australia and the United States, were among the several thousand people who turned out for the show.

Zabel Wins Mass Sprint as Sun Comes Back



GAP, France (July 9): Swiss cyclist Pascal Richard (R) offers candies to Tour de France's sportive director Jean-Francois Pescheux (L) during the 10th stage of the French cycling race between Turin and Gap.

(AFP PHOTO)

GAP, France (Reuter) — German Erik Zabel won a mass sprint to score his second stage win in this year's Tour de France on Tuesday as the race left the mountains and bad weather behind.

Zabel, who had claimed the third stage in Nogent-Sur-Oise, beat Uzbekhistan's Djamolidine Abdujaparov and Italian Andrea Ferrigato into second and third place respectively at the end of the undemanding, 208.5-km 10th stage from Turin, Italy.

Bjarne Riis of Denmark came in with the pack to retain the Yellow Jersey he had seized in Monday's stage, shortened to 46 kms because of snowfalls in the French Alps.

Perhaps inspired by Riis' example, Dane Rolf Sorensen tried his luck on a sunny day by escaping with 28 kms remaining but he was reined in a few hundred metres from the line.

The 26-year-old Zabel's powerful sprint allowed him to take the points classification leader's Green Jersey from Frenchman Frederic Moncassin.

Chinese Divers Look For Golden Sweep

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) — Chinese divers missed out on just one gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics, a tally they might well improve on in the Atlanta Games.

American Mark Lenzi in the 3m springboard was the only diver to break the Chinese stranglehold in 1992.

He returns to defend his title, but not before a bout of burn-out that led to a two-year layoff.

In Atlanta, Chinese divers are favoured to sweep all four gold medals, though results from the 1994 World Championships and the 1995 World Cup indicate the competition may be stiff.

While China's Gao Min retired after earning her second straight Olympic springboard title in Barcelona, women's platform gold medallist Fu Mingxia and men's platform champion Sun Shuwei will try to up their list of honors.

Fu was just 13 when she won the 1992 platform gold. Since then she has won the platform title at the 1994 World Championships in Rome. At the 1995 World Cup in Atlanta, she finished runner-up to Chi Bin in her longtime specialty, but won the 3m springboard title.

Her springboard success may make her a double threat, though it was unclear 10 days before the start of the games if she would compete in both events.

Sun, 20, confirmed his status favorite to defend his platform crown with his victory at the 199[illegible] World Cup. Teammate Xiong N[illegible] the 1988 silver medallist and 199[illegible] bronze medallist, will be one of his toughest competitors.

S. Korean Olympic Team Leaves For Atlanta

SEOUL (AFP) — The main contingent of South Korea's 503-member Olympic team left here Wednesday for Atlanta to attend the Olympics, one day after the departure of a North Korean Olympic squad.

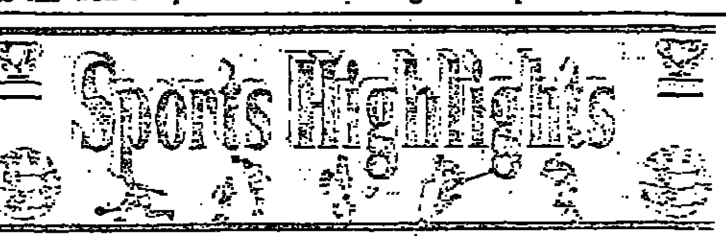
Television showed 217 South Korean athletes and officials holding a brief ceremony at Seoul's Kimpo International Airport before boarding a charter flight.

The remaining South Korean Olympic team members will be sent later on regular commercial flights.

South Korea fields the largest Olympic team among Asian nations, hoping to retain its third consecutive Olympic top-10 finish in Atlanta.

At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, South Korea finished fourth with 12 gold, 10 silver and 11 bronze medals. At the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, it won 12 golds and finished seventh.

On Tuesday, North Korea, which is now struggling with dire food shortages and economic difficulties, dispatched an unspecified number of officials and athletes to Atlanta.



Cricket

NOTTINGHAM, England — England, replying to India's first innings 521, were all out for 564 on the final day of the third test at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.

Athletics

STOCKHOLM — Michael Johnson flew home to the United states Sn tuesday after completing a pre-olympic european racing programme he hopes will bring him unprecedented glory in Atlanta.

The next time the 28-year-old Texan appears on a track will be in the evening on Friday, July 26 when he lines up at the start of his first round heat in the Olympic 400 metres in Atlanta.

Baseball

PHILADELPHIA — John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves, who leads the majors with 14 wins, and Cleveland Indians ace Charles Nagy *were named the starling pitchers Monday for Tuesday* night's all-star game.

The starters were announced by national league manager Bobby Cox of the Braves and American League manager Mike Hargrove of the Indians.

U.S., France, Britain Warned to Get Out of Persian Gulf

LONDON (AFP) — Britain and France have been warned to pull their troops out of Saudi Arabia, by one of the fiercest opponents of the Saudi regime and of the United States' presence in the Persian Gulf, the *Independent* reported Wednesday.

Osama bin Laden, who the paper said has been accused by Western and Arab governments of being "the financier of an Islamic international" told the daily in an interview that such a move was necessary to avoid the fate of U.S. soldiers killed by a bomb in Saudi Arabia two weeks ago.

The 40-year-old Saudi dissident said that killing the Americans marked "the beginning of war between Muslims and the United States".

He was referring to a huge truck bomb that blew up next to an air base used by U.S. forces at El Khobar near Dhahran in eastern Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Americans and wounding hundreds of other people.

The attack came less than a month after four Saudi Islamic activists were executed for a November car bomb attack against a U.S. military office in Riyadh that left five Americans and two Indians dead.

"Not long ago, I gave advice to the Americans to withdraw their troops from Saudi Arabia," Bin Laden said in the interview conducted in Afghanistan, to which he has reportedly returned from Sudan with hundreds of his Mujahideen guerillas.

"Now let us give some advice to the governments of Britain and France to take their troops out — because what happened in Riyadh and Khobar showed that the people who did this have a deep understanding in choosing their targets.

"They hit their main enemy, which is the Americans. They killed no secondary enemies, nor their brothers in the army or the police of Saudi Arabia," he said, adding that he took no personal responsibility for the bombings.

Bin Laden expressed his contempt for the Saudi monarchy and its alleged failure to abide by Islamic Sharia law, adding that the "evils" of the Middle East stemmed from the United States' attempt to take over the region and from its support for Israel.

Croatia to Hand Over Croat War Crimes Suspect

ZAGREB (AFP) — Croatia is to hand over a Croat suspected of committing war crimes in Bosnia to The Hague-based International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, authorities said Wednesday.

A local court in the Adriatic Port of Split said in a communique that Zlatko Aleksovski would be turned over to the War Crimes Tribunal (ICT) which has charged him with killings in central Bosnia in 1993. Aleksovski has a week to appeal the decision, the tribunal said.

Aleksovski is alleged to have taken part in the massacre of Muslims in the village of Ahmici, a small settlement in the bitterly contested Lasva Valley where much of the Muslim-Croat conflict during 1993 took place.

Born in Croatia, Aleksovski is one of five soldiers held responsible for the Ahmici killings in which more than 100 people were murdered in one of the worst atrocities of the Bosnian conflict.

The slaughter was carried out by the Bosnian Croat Militia (HVO) of which Aleksovski was a member. Four other HVO soldiers have been indicted for the murders.

Aleksovski is the second Croat to face the War Crimes Tribunal. In April, Tihomir Blaskic, a Bosnian Croat commander during the war, gave himself up to the court after international pressure on Zagreb. On signing the Dayton peace accords that ended the war in Bosnia last December Croatia pledged to arrest and extradite any suspected war criminal.

Zagreb, which funded and supplied the HVO with arms and equipment, has been reluctant to see its soldiers go to the tribunal.

Mubarak Due in Ankara Today to Discuss Accord With Israel

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Ankara on Thursday for talks with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel on Turkey's military accord with Israel, state television said.

The "working visit" comes "after the Arab summit in Cairo (June 22-23) which called on Turkey to review its military agreement with Israel" signed in February, the television said Wednesday.

The trip comes after "an invitation given to Mubarak by Demirel during his last visit to Cairo" in March.

Mubarak's visit will be the first by an Arab leader since Necmettin Erbakan was confirmed as Turkey's first Islamist prime minister on Monday.

The government daily *Al-Ahram* reported Wednesday that Mubarak would also hold talks with "high officials" in Ankara, but did not specify if he would meet Erbakan.

Arab nations, especially Syria, have roundly condemned the accord with Israel signed by Erbakan's predecessor and now coalition partner Tansu Ciller, although Ankara denied the accord was directed against the Arabs.

King Fahd Meets Bangladesh PM

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has met with Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Hasina Wajed, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The two discussed late Tuesday "cooperation between Riyadh and Dhaka as well as the situation in the Arab and Muslim world," SPA said.

Wajed, the head of the Awami League who became premier on June 23 after her party won the most seats in the June 12 legislative elections, made a small pilgrimage to Mecca after her arrival on Tuesday.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUSSIA....

Meanwhile Russian warplanes and heavy artillery on Wednesday unleashed a firestorm on southern Chechnya, pounding mountain villages in an offensive that killed and wounded numerous civilians.

More than 20 civilians were killed and many others wounded in Russian air raids on the village of Mekhketi in southeastern Chechnya, local district officials told ITAR-TASS news agency.

A local doctor told an AFP correspondent in Shali, just north of Mekhketi, that five wounded civilians who were brought to Shali from the village Tuesday later died.

Three other civilians with severe burns were in a critical condition "and are unlikely to survive," the doctor said.

Mekhketi lies 40 kilometers (28 miles) southeast of the devastated Chechen capital Grozny. The road to the village was blocked by Russian armor Wednesday, preventing wounded civilians from reaching the hospital in Shali.

For at least two hours Wednesday Russian warplanes dropped bombs on Mekhketi and the nearby mountain areas of Vedeno and Shatoi, while artillery, including Grad multiple rockets, also targeted the villages.

Ruslan Tsakayev, a senior pro-Russian Chechen security official, told ITAR-TASS that federal forces were trying to destroy a Chechn base near Mekhketi.

A Russian artillery and air attack Tuesday on Gekhi, southwest of Grozny, left at least 20 civilians dead, according to the local administration.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RIYADH....

port to Damascus in its struggle "to counter obstacles placed by Israel (...) to free itself of its responsibilities toward the peace process."

"Riyadh totally supports Syria's just claims and efforts to recover its land in line with the resolutions," the statement added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara, who co-chaired the meetings with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud al-Faisal, on Tuesday accused Israel of engaging in "terrorism" and warned the peace process could grind to a halt.

The Saudi-Syrian statement also called on Iraq to "apply all UN resolutions" concerning the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf crisis and "free all Kuwaiti prisoners of war and those of other nationalities."

But both said they were "very committed to Iraq's territorial integrity and opposed to any threat against the country's sovereignty."

Meanwhile the Arab League's secretary-general on Wednesday scoffed at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tough stance on Mideast negotiations and warned no peace can be achieved unless Israel returns all occupied land, AP reported.

In the first Arab reaction to Netanyahu's statements Tuesday in Washington, Esmat Abdel-Meguid said the peace process would stall if the Israeli leader refuses to accept the land for peace formula on which the negotiations were launched in 1991.

"This is very dangerous. Netanyahu is playing with fire," Abdel-Meguid told a group of American Middle East specialists who are in Cairo for discussions with Arab League officials.

"But he will be the first one to burn with this fire. I am saying this, and it reflects the Arabs' opinion," Abdel-Meguid added.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu outlined his views at a White House news conference with President Clinton, challenging the land-for-peace formula as the only basis for negotiations.

He said that Israel has a different view of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which urged Israel to return land seized in the 1967 Mideast war in exchange for peace and secure borders. He maintained Israel has made "substantial concessions on all fronts."

"Does fairness require that Israel yield 100 percent and the Arab sides yield zero percent? And will we have secure boundaries on the '67 borders?" he asked. "Well, obviously, we think differently."

But Abdel-Meguid said Arabs will insist that Israel should return "every inch" of the land it occupied in the 1967 Middle east war before a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved. This would include Syria's Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

UNITY....

tion of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran."

When asked about the problems in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Palestinian Authority, he said, I hope that we can solve problems and I am ready to help in this connection."

He also said that the Muslim countries should negotiate and settle their problems in a brotherly way.

The Palestinian Authority has delegated a two-member delegation to the Third Meeting of Telecommunications Ministers of the OIC to Tehran. Marwah Abu Hatab, Telecommunications Director in the Palestine's Ministry of Post and Telecommunications accompanied Falouji.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT....

education and research, exchange of technical know-how and decrease in telecommunications tariffs are high on the agenda of the Tehran ministerial meeting.

Rafsanjani said that in the light of their special geopolitical situation, resources and rich culture, the Islamic countries have the potential to form a world power.

Leaders of the Islamic countries are duty-bound to utilize their potentials appropriately to obtain the status they deserve, he said, referring to the OIC as the best channel to utilize such potentials.

Emphasizing that the OIC should strengthen cooperation among its member states, he said, "Today the world counts on the OIC and we in the Islamic world should also pay more attention to it."

Stressing the importance of cooperation among Islamic countries to expand their telecommunications industries, President Rafsanjani called for attaching special significance to the issue by Islamic countries.

Referring to the vital role of telecommunications, he said Islamic countries should give due attention to the telecommunications sector as a sensitive and decisive task.

Reminding that the Islamic countries can set up a base to render services and expand telecommunication networks for the Islamic countries, he said the Islamic Development Bank can make more investment in this field.

The Muslim country of Iran, unlike monopolizing countries, does not intend to use its potentials in order to gain specific goals, he said.

Rafsanjani also said that it is essential that a joint Islamic satellite system be established.

The president urged the telecommunications ministers of the Islamic countries to do their best to implement the agreements signed between countries.

Reminding that the Islamic countries can attain modern post and telecommunications technology, he referred to the Islamic Republic as a model country in this regard.

Turning to Iran's achievements in the field of telecommunications, he said all telecommunication affairs in Iran, ranging from design to implementation, used to be carried out by foreign experts prior to the Islamic Revolution in 1979. But, today all of them are performed by Iranian experts, he added.

The president expressed hope that the Tehran meeting would have positive impacts on cooperation among Islamic countries.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NETANYAHU..

ises on two issues in which the administration had hoped to see some movement: Withdrawing the Israeli Army from the West Bank city of Al-Khalil and meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The Al-Khalil pullout is the next stage called for in the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, which is already three months behind in implementation.

Clinton had backed the more dovish former Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the United States is concerned that Netanyahu's "peace with security" policies could hinder its mammoth efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

But the U.S president, who appeared upstaged by his telegenic counterpart, bowed to the hawkish Netanyahu.

"Peace and security must be indivisible, because peace without security is impossible and true security without peace cannot be achieved," said Clinton, who announced a new early-warning U.S. missile defense system for Israel.

Netanyahu refused to give any timetable for meeting with Arafat, saying only: "We have ongoing contacts with Mr. Arafat and with the Palestinian Authority. ... we'll expand these contacts, both in frequency and the level."

Clinton, for his part, stressed that it was essential for the two to hold a meeting.

Both agreed that fighting terrorism was the first order of the day and Clinton announced that the first meeting of a counter-terrorism group will be held this month in Washington.

Meanwhile, according to another AFP report from Israel, opposition leaders in Israel said Wednesday they saw little hope for the Middle East peace process after the summit meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"The peace process is in danger of dying," said Ephraim Sneh, Labor MP and former health minister.

Sneh told state radio that Netanyahu's pledge to pursue settlement activity in the Palestinian territories was the gravest cause for concern. "Netanyahu's key phrase was the one on settling the West Bank and Gaza in line with his government's policy," he said.

"Netanyahu did not hide from President Clinton his minimum target for the number of Israeli settlers in the territories this year: 250,000 people" compared to 145,000 now, Sneh added.

Other leftwing leaders were scathing about the vaunted "chemistry" between Netanyahu and Clinton as they watched the White House press conference on television Tuesday.

Netanyahu rejected a request from the United States to commit himself to freeze settlement building in the Palestinian territories, Israeli newspapers reported Wednesday, according to AFP.

The rightwing Israeli leader was asked to make the pledge during meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and President Bill Clinton in Washington Tuesday, the newspapers quoted aides as saying.

Reacting to the Netanyahu-Clinton's meeting, Palestinian leaders said Wednesday they feared the hardline display put on by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington could spell the beginning of the end for the peace process.

Peace "is beginning to slip through our fingers like sand," said local Government Minister Saeb Erakat.

"It has run into turbulence and I think it will receive more heavy blows before the American elections" in November, he told AFP.

Under the autonomy accords, Israel was to have withdrawn from most of Al-Khalil by March 28 but it was postponed by former Premier Shimon Peres.

Erakat said there were a whole host of other violations of the autonomy accords threatening the peace process.

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 37°C Min. temp. 27°C

Partly cloudy with scattered showers and wind

Warmest Points:

Ahwaz, Dehloran 48°C

Coldest Point:

Ardebil 10°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Jedda	–	Vienna	17
Riyadh	44	Moscow	33
Istanbul	–	Madrid	29
Rome	–	Abu Dhabi	42
Athens	–	Karachi	31
London	–	New Delhi	35
Paris	19	Kuwait	47
Frankfurt	–		

TEHRAN (July 10) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Laotian Counterpart Somsavat Lengsavat shaking hands after signing a memorandum of understanding on Tehran-Vientiane mutual cooperation here Wednesday. Kaveh Ahmadi — Tehran Times

UNFPA CHIEF:

AIDS to Kill 10m People Before End of Century

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr. Nafis Sadik, said that by the end of the century more than 10 million people would have died of AIDS, said a press release by the UN Information Center here on Wednesday.

"About five people every minute contract the HIV infection which leads eventually to AIDS," said Dr. Sadik in her message on the occasion of World Population Day, July 11.

According to Dr. Sadik, AIDS is a personal and family tragedy and also a threat to national development.

She concluded by saying, "If we all act together, and act responsibly, we can slow the spread of AIDS, if not eliminate it altogether."

The theme of this year's World Population Day is "Community and Responsibility: Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS."

Turkey Determined to Promote Relations With Iran


Abbas Takin — Tehran Times

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Visiting Turkish Deputy Interior Minister, Erol Caker, said here yesterday that Ankara prefers to iron out misunderstandings through friendly negotiations.

He stressed that Turkish government is determined to promote its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking to the reporters, Caker stated that had fruitful talks with the Iranian officials during his stay here.

Referring to the historical and friendly ties between the two countries, Caker said that the Tehran-Ankara relations are based on good neighborliness and noninterference in each others' internal affairs. "We do our best to establish peace and security in the region", the Turkish official said.

As for Turkey's response to its recent attack on Iranian border area, Caker said that the attack has not been confirmed by Turkish border officials yet.

There is no similarity between this attack and the one which took place two years ago in the Iranian border. Meanwhile, the Turkish government will send a team of experts to Iran to investigate the incident.

He further blamed Kurdistan Workers Party's (PKK) for its operations in Turkish joint borders with Iran in the recent years. The Turkish official further said this group which is supported by some Turkey's southern neighbors spare no effort to tarnish Turkey's relations with its neighbors, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the last two years PKK members have killed 71 and injured 100 Turkish border guards, he added.

Caker heading a high ranking delegation, is in Iran to take part in the third Iran-Turkey High Security Commission.

During his stay here, Caker held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Hassan Rouhani, Interior Minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati and Deputy Interior Minister Gholam Hussein Bolandian.

Moldova Seeks Iranian Investment



TEHRAN (IRNA) – The visiting Minister of Industry of Moldova, Grigore Triboi, in a meeting on Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, called for Iranian investment and cooperation in the industrial and reconstruction sectors of his country.

Referring to high quality of Iran's industrial and agricultural machinery, the Moldovan minister expressed full satisfaction of his country over Iranian-made tractor engines and said Moldova is willing to increase import of such items.

He also said that his country is interested in benefitting from Iran's industrial experience for joint production of tractors, combines and agriculture devices.

Triboi said his country is also keen on Iranian public and private investments in Moldova, and promised that the Moldovan government will provide the required facilities in this respect.

The visiting Moldovan minister of industry briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the latest developments in his country's economy situation as well as the trend of privatization and reconstruction works in his country.

Referring to the rapid pace of expansion of ties between Iran and Moldova, Velayati said that there is a fertile ground for industrial and agricultural cooperations.

Touching on the valuable experience gained by Iran in the field of reconstruction during the post-war period, Velayati voiced Iran's readiness to help Moldova in national reconstruction work.

Velayati underlined importance of regional and multilateral cooperation and also positive results of such cooperations with the former Soviet Union republics, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to have similar cooperations with Moldova.

Soldiers, Palestinians Clash in Al-Khalil

AL-KHALIL, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinians protesting against "U.S. bias" towards Israel clashed for several hours with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Al-Khalil on Wednesday, military officials said.

The protestors hurled stones and bottles at the soldiers during the clashes but there were no casualties, the officials said.

An explosive device also blew up near an army checkpoint in the town, again without causing casualties, they added.

The army slapped a curfew on Al-Khalil, forcing Palestinian shops near the scenes of the attacks to close until further notice, Palestinian sources said.

Al-Khalil inhabitants called the demonstration to protest what they called the "deliberately pro-Israeli stance" of U.S. President Bill Clinton during his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington Tuesday.

Netanyahu emerged from the talks refusing to set a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from Al-Khalil, which is already more than three months behind the schedule set by the autonomy accords.

However, Israeli state radio, quoting U.S. sources, said Netanyahu pledged to go ahead with a withdrawal in his one-to-one talks with Clinton.

Al-Khalil is the last major West Bank town to remain under Israeli occupation. Former Prime Minister Shimon Peres postponed a troop redeployment planned for March 28 after a wave of Islamic bombings in the Zionist state.

28 Tons of Caviar Extracted in Gilan

BANDAR ANZALI, Gilan Province (IRNA) -- More than 28 tons of caviar were extracted during the spring sturgeon catch season in this Caspian province.

Director General of the Fisheries of Gilan, Yousefi, added that during the spring season some 480 fishermen with 120 boats were engaged in catching sturgeon fish.

IRNA Office Inaugurated in Hamedan

HAMEDAN (IRNA) – Managing Director of the Islamic Republic New Agency (IRNA), Fereidoun Vardinejad, said here on Tuesday that under the present circumstances the country has taken big strides in collecting and publishing news and reports.

Vardinejad who is here to inaugurate IRNA's new office in this western Iranian provincial capital, pointed out that journalists and reporters should preserve their close relations with the people in order to collect and dispatch information as soon as possible.

1m Pound Reward for Manchester Bombers

MANCHESTER, England (AFP) -- Police here announced Wednesday a one million pound (1.5 million dollar) reward for information leading to the arrest of IRA bombers who detonated a massive blast in Manchester last month.

The head of the anti-terrorist branch, Commander John Grieve, announced the move in a bid to find out where the bombers might have loaded the lorry and wired the device used in the attack which devastated Manchester city center.

At a news conference in Manchester, Grieve said that the money, which had been offered by "concerned members of the community," was being used as an incentive for someone with information to "break ranks."

(Contd from Pg. 4)

A FILM...

Khamse, Amir Pievar, Ebrahim Abadi and Gholamhossein Loufi.

(35 mm., Colour, 100 mins.)

Director's Short Biography:

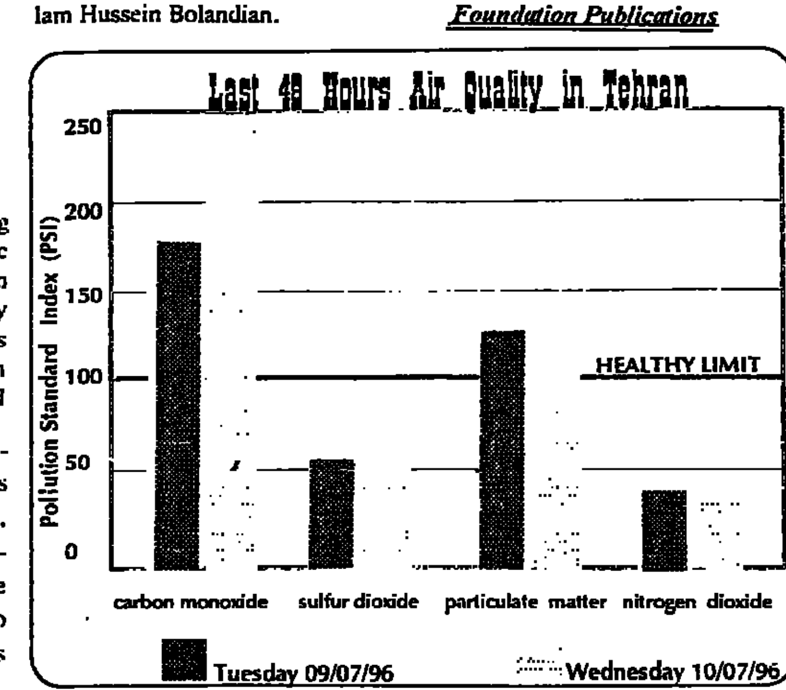
Born in Neishaboor in 1955, Abolhassan Davoudi studied at the college of Film and Television, and then took up the study of sociology at National University. For about 10 years Davoudi wrote film reviews and taught at the college of IRIB and produced a number of T.V. plays and made documentary films. He collaborated on 6 scripts, 4 of which were turned into films. He made his debut picture, *Book of Love in* 1989. His subsequent pictures are *The Extraordinary Journey* (1990), *Pickpockets Don't Go to Heaven* (1992), *Ilia, The Young Painter* (1992), *I Love The Earth* (1994) *The Sweet Smell of Life* (1995).

Synopsis:

Kamal and Jamal are twin brothers who have different temperaments in spite of their great physical resemblance. Jamal, who is a medical aid worker, comes across the unconscious body of an old man in the street and carries him to the hospital. The old man's brother, is planning to dispossess the old man of his old and spacious mansion with the aid of a lawyer. To show his appreciation for Jamal's help, the old man decides to sell his house to the young man at a very low price.

But his plan meets opposition from the old man's brother, the lawyer. Kamal and his wife who want a share of the house for themselves, and will not even stop at cheating one another.

Courtesy: Farabi Cinema Foundation Publications



TEHRAN TIMES

International news

PAGE 16

JULY 11, 1996

SOS Message Left in Bottle Received 35 Years Later

BAD WIESSEE, Germany (AFP) -- A hiker who sought refuge from storms by ducking beneath some cliffs near the southern town of Bad Wiessee found some consolation in a bottle -- in the form of a message left there 35 years ago by another hiker in distress.

The author of the message, Georg Hoss of Bad Wiessee, had narrowly escaped death by ducking below the cliff during a landslide.

Jochen Schwarz said Tuesday that he had met the hiker, who is now 85. Hoss was "delighted" that his message had reached a receiver, Schwarz said.

Human Skulls Seized From Indian River

NEW DELHI (AFP) -- Indian police have seized more than 400 human skulls from a river in the eastern state of Bihar, newspapers reported Tuesday.

The skulls were dumped in four sacks in the Falgu River in Gaya region, home to Buddhist shrines, and the police were alerted to them Monday by residents, the dailies said.

Press Trust of India quoted an officer as saying that the upper portion of some of the skulls were broken and some were small, indicating that they were of children.

Queen Hails Mandela as Saviour of South Africa



LONDON, United Kingdom (July 9): South African President Nelson Mandela accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh (R) reviews an honor guard on Horseguards Parade on the first day of his state visit to Britain.

(AFP PHOTO)

LONDON (Reuter) -- Queen Elizabeth hailed Nelson Mandela as the saviour of South Africa when she honored the political prisoner-turned-president at a glittering Buckingham Palace state banquet on Tuesday night.

It was fitting close to the first day of a long-awaited state visit by the charismatic 78-year-old leader.

In the afternoon, a cheering crowd of more than 6,000 people, many of them black school children, packed stands on Horseguards Parade ground half a mile (one km) from the palace to watch Mandela inspect red-uniformed royal guards in a ceremony attended by the queen and Prime Minister John Major.

Royal pomp and ceremony was the order of the day as the man from humble beginnings also lunched at Buckingham Palace and laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown warrior after a visit to Westminister Abbey where he delighted crowds with an impromptu walkabout.

It was all a far cry from the 27 years Mandela spent behind bars in South Africa during the long-struggle against apartheid. Recalling the sacrifices he made and the suffering he endured, Queen Elizabeth on Tuesday night hailed his wisdom, understanding and experience.

"You have, yourself, provided the leadership and, by your willingness to embrace your former captors, have set the course towards national reconciliation and freedom for all the people of South Africa," she said.

"Mr president, South Africa has a special place in my heart and in the hearts of the British people."

Junta Leader Triumphs in Niger Presidential Poll

NIAMEY (AFP) -- Niger's military ruler General Ibrahim Bare Mainassara won an outright victory in the first round of this week's presidential election, the national election commission (CNE) said early Wednesday.

Mainassara who seized power in January, won 52.22 percent of the total vote, the CNE said.

The man he overthrew, former President Mahamane Ousmane was second with 19.75 percent, followed by Mamadou Tandja of the National Movement for the Development Society (MNSD) - the country's main party - who polled 15.65 percent.

The two other candidates, Mahamadou Issoufou and Moumouni Djermakoye Adamou garnered 7.6 percent and 4.77 percent respectively.

The results will be handed to the supreme court which has 15 days in which to endorse or invalidate the outcome under the country's new electoral code.

Unrest Grips N. Ireland, More Troops Planned

BELFAST (Reuter) -- Britain is preparing to send more troops to Northern Ireland, where violence spread across the province for the third night running.

As the confrontation between police and pro-British Protestant "Loyalist" marchers which sparked the violence continued into Wednesday morning, towns across Northern Ireland and parts of Belfast were hit by rioting.

Police reported a wave of petrol bomb attacks. Roads were blocked as mobs built barricades and set them on fire, and police said they had received reports of two shooting incidents, although there were no reports of any injuries.

A British Army spokesman in London said the government was preparing to deploy two extra battalions of troops -- around 1,000 men -- in Northern Ireland, adding that the troops could be sent to the province by the end of the week if needed.

If the battalions are deployed, it would be the first increase in troop numbers since the collapse of a truce by the outlawed Irish Republican Army in February this year.

The unrest was sparked by the police decision to stop the exclusively Protestant Orange Order parading through the Catholic neighbourhood at Portadown, 25 miles (35 km) south of Belfast, to avoid sectarian confrontations.

Prime Minister John Major warned on Tuesday the unrest could put back the search for peace in Northern Ireland.

Describing the unrest as "indefensible", he told Parliament: "The search for peace in Northern Ireland will certainly not be assisted by such behaviour. It could well be put back."

Lazarenko Reappointed Premier in Ukraine

KIEV (AFP) -- The Ukrainian Parliament on Wednesday overwhelmingly voted in favor of reappointing Pavel Lazarenko to his post of prime minister, as recommended by President Leonid Kuchma.

Among the mainly Communist deputies, 344 voted in favor of Lazarenko's reappointment and 22 were against. Nine other deputies abstained and 17 stayed away.

Lazarenko, 43, had submitted his government's resignation on July 5, in line with the republic's first post-Soviet constitution adopted last month.

He told the assembly that he would work to protect Ukraine's industrial and farm sector and would lower taxes, adding that he would also focus on reforming the energy sector, which is in deep crisis.

Lazarenko is expected to present his new program to Parliament in September.

Under the constitution passed on June 28, the prime minister must be confirmed by Parliament, and Kuchma had met with political parties over the past few days to muster support for Lazarenko.

Okinawan Governor Tells Supreme Court U.S. Military Not Welcome

TOKYO (AP) -- Okinawa's governor on Wednesday defended local landowners' refusal to renew leases to the U.S. military, telling the supreme court that islanders are fed up with bearing the brunt of the American presence.

"The bases issue is not just an Okinawan one. It is an issue of Japanese sovereignty and the principles of democracy," Gov. Masahide Ota told reporters afterwards. "I'll continue to push for reducing the bases."

Ota was at the supreme court to appeal a lower court ruling ordering him to force an Okinawan landowner to renew his lease to the U.S. Navy. The landowner is one of many protesting the forced leasing of land to the bases.

The governor is pitted against the central government in Tokyo, which opposes his appeal and says the continued leasing of the land is required under Japan's security agreement with the United States.

Ota told the court that the island has had to put up with a disproportionate share of the U.S. military bases in Japan, and that the policy that forces them to lease their land should stop.

The island hosts about 75 percent of the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan, and the bases take up 20 percent of its area. The U.S. military is blamed by locals for crime, noise and economic stagnation.

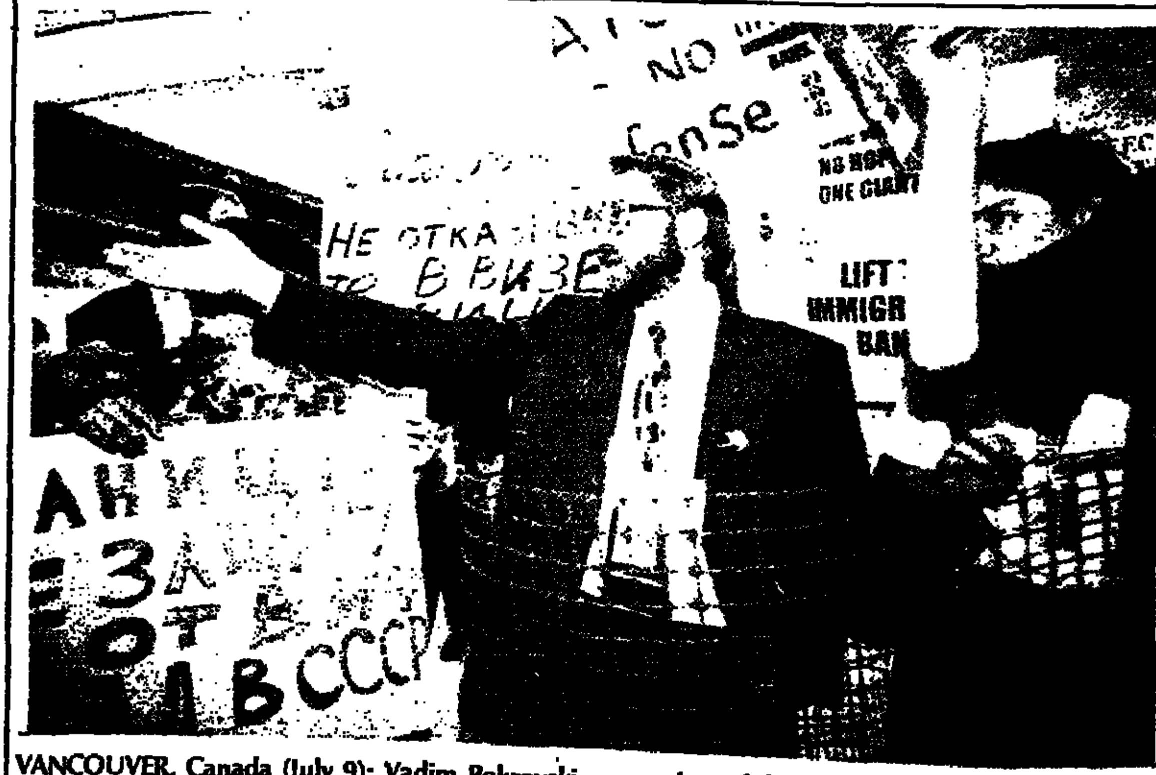
Cambodian King Returns After Extended Absence

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) -- King Norodom Sihanouk returned to Cambodia from China on Wednesday after a three-month absence to take a break from the country's bitter politics and tend to his bad health.

The presence of the king, who has played a prominent role in Cambodia for almost half a century, is considered by many to be vital in easing the country's political tensions.

Relations between Cambodia's co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, have become increasingly strained since March. They disagree over a variety of issues such as power-sharing, and for a time it looked as though their coalition government would collapse.

"I am still feeling very weak," the king said upon his arrival at Pochentong International Airport, adding that he still had three or four health-related problems. "But I missed you all very much."



VANCOUVER, Canada (July 9): Vadim Pokrovski, a member of the AIDS conference in Vancouver, shouts back at protesters from the fence they have set up around him at the 11th International Conference on AIDS. The protest, organized by Act Up Philadelphia, used a plastic fence to symbolize their chant of "A fence is no defense," against Russian immigration laws barring people with HIV from entering the country.

(AFP PHOTO)

Fuming India Parliament Adjourns in Fuel Furore

NEW DELHI (Reuter) -- India's Parliament adjourned in uproar after the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) paralyzed proceedings by protesting against sharp increases in petroleum product prices.

"It pains me a lot. I don't think we can preserve democracy like this," speaker P.A. Sangma said while adjourning the house after BJP members shouted slogans against Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's center-left government for an hour.

Deve Gowda's five-week-old government ran into problems with coalition partners and allies over the 25-30 percent increases last week in the prices of diesel, petrol, paraffin wax and cooking gas.

In the face of protests within the 13-party coalition, the government halved the diesel price rise to 15 percent but kept other increases intact.

"This government will not be allowed to run," a BJP member shouted in Parliament. "Withdraw the price hikes," others shouted when refusing to go along with Sangma's decision to allow discussion on the issue.

The parliamentary session is seen as a key test for Deve Gowda's coalition, which came to power after general elections in April and May this year. The Congress Party, whose support is crucial, has also criticized the increases.

Heat Takes Lives of 22 in Southern Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (AP) -- At least 22 people have died, including 11 infants, in a heat wave that has sent temperatures soaring above 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) in Egypt this week, police said Wednesday.

The deaths were reported in southern provinces, including Assiut, Qena, Sohag, and in the new valley in the western desert, they said. At least 170 others have sought medical help at local hospitals, they added.

The police said the dead included 11 infants overcome by the heat.

Damage also has been reported to vegetable and fruit crops.

BAGHDAD, Iraq: Iraqi Oil Minister Amer Rashid (R) and his Ukrainian counterpart Yevgen Dovzhok meet at the Oil Ministry in Baghdad after signing a cooperation agreement centered mainly on petroleum exploration and production that could lead to Iraqi oil being sold to the former Soviet republic.
(AFP PHOTO)

Parliament Demands Commission to Explain Mad Cow Stance

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Commission has been ordered to defend its handling of the EU's beef crisis before the European Parliament next week following reports that it conspired to suppress evidence of the risks posed by "mad cow" disease.

Klaus Hansch, president of the Parliament, wrote to Commission President Jacques Santer on Tuesday underlining his deep concern at the reports.

"The explanations given so far have not been sufficient to address the public's fears," Hansch wrote.

French press reports said last week that the EU's standing veterinary committee had known since 1990 that "mad cow" disease could be transmitted to humans but had deliberately kept the information secret with the full knowledge and backing of the commission.

Hansch also expressed concern about reports that British beef, banned since March, was being illegally exported to other EU countries.

Clarke Cuts 1996 Growth Forecast to 2.5 Percent

LONDON (AFP) — British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke on Tuesday announced a sharp cut in the economic growth forecast for Britain in 1996 to 2.5 percent from the 3.0 percent that he predicted last November.

The downward revision reflects weakness in European export markets and the stagnant performance of the British manufacturing sector this year. This contrasts with a healthy consumer sector, which has benefited from tax cuts made in April.

Clarke sought to play down the importance of the new forecast, saying that he expected "a strong pick-up" in the economy in 1996 and 1997, with consumer spending "likely to be a major expansionary force both this year and the next".

And he said that the economy would also benefit from "reviving demand in Europe...and rising business investment".

He used the treasury's summer economic forecast to predict that British gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 3.25 percent in 1997.

But there was also bad news on the country's finances, as the chancellor raised his estimate for the public deficit in the 1996-97 financial year to 27 billion pounds (41.9 billion dollars), from 22.5 billion pounds forecast in the November budget.

In 1997-98, the deficit should be 23 billion pounds, he predicted.

Clarke blamed the huge deficit overshoot on an unexpected shortfall in tax receipts.

The deterioration in British public finances has raised fears about Britain's chances of meeting the Maastricht criteria to qualify for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999.

Countries wanting to be founder members of a single European currency in January 1999 must restrain their public deficits to 3.0 percent of GDP or less in 1997, and keep their public debt levels below 60 percent of GDP.

Britain's public deficit according to the treasury's criteria in 1995 was six percent of GDP.

Clarke, however, said that public borrowing was "unambiguously coming down" and added that he was determined to "stick to a sensible fiscal policy" aimed at bringing the deficit back to balance in the medium-term.

The chancellor said that the government deficit based on the Maastricht criteria should fall to three percent of GDP in the 1997-98 financial year, while public debt should be 56 percent of GDP in the same period.

Clarke was at pains to rule out the idea of populist tax cuts in the November budget, the last before general elections due by May, 1997, which the opposition Labour Party is widely tipped to win.

The government's record of "prudent management" of the economy was more important, he said.

On Monday, Clarke endorsed a report from the European Union's Monetary Committee that warned Britain it should be looking to tighten, not loosen, its fiscal belt, if it wants to stay on track for participation in the planned launch of the Euro in 1999.

The chancellor predicted that British underlying inflation — the government's key inflationary indicator — should fall to an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the last three months of 1996.

And in the second quarter of 1997, underlying inflation should be 2.25 percent, in line with the government's target of pushing it below 2.5 percent by spring 1997.

In May this year, underlying inflation was 2.8 percent.

Japanese Cabinet Pushes Deregulation to Rein in State Deficit

Tokyo (AFP) - Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's cabinet agreed Tuesday to promote deregulation to cut the country's massive budget deficit.

The ministers, meeting for the second time to debate spending limits for the budget in the financial year to March 1998, agreed on the need for deregulation and reform to help boost the economy.

"All cabinet ministers shared a determination on promoting deregulation and administrative and financial reforms," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told reporters after the meeting.

Hashimoto told reporters the cabinet debate "went into some detail."

Economic Planning Agency Director-General Shusei Tanaka said he presented cabinet with a draft of deregulation proposals targeted at reviving economic growth in the mid- and long-term.

The proposals called for deregulation in information and telecommunications, finance, land and housing, employment and distribution.

Tanaka said he planned to add deregulation of the welfare sector to the final plan, but did not indicate when it would be completed.

Kajiyama later quoted Tanaka as telling ministers that deregulation and reform was needed to help state finances and restore Japan's international competitiveness.

Finance Minister Wataru Kubo said financial sector deregulation was needed for the government to restructure the national budget.

He said such deregulation would help galvanize activity in Tokyo's financial markets, leading in turn to a restructuring of the budget.

"Tokyo financial markets are behind London and New York by about ten years," Kubo said, adding that he would ask officials on his ministry's committee on securities transactions to speed up the deliberations on revising regulations.

Kubo is to submit to cabinet Friday his ministry's proposals for a ceiling on budget spending. Ministers submit budgetary requests at the end of August.

Hashimoto said last week the country's finances were tight and urged his ministers to cut spending when they submit applications for allocations under the 1997-98 budget.

Enron Power Project Gets Government OK

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's nine-party coalition government Tuesday cleared a problem-plagued 2.8-billion-dollar power project in the western state of Maharashtra, officials said.

The Cabinet, meeting on Tuesday under Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, cleared the amended power purchase agreement between U.S.-based Enron Corp. and the state's Hindu nationalist government.

"The prime minister has conveyed his decision (approving the agreement) to the chief minister of Maharashtra, Manohar Joshi," a government spokesman said.

Joshi's militant government had initially scrapped the 2,015-megawatt project last August, saying it did not conform to the state's interests and alleging the U.S.-based firm had inflated costs.

In January this year, the project was given a new chance when Enron offered to lower electricity tariffs, change the fuel from liquefied natural gas to naphtha and raise generating capacity to 2,450 MW.

The amended agreement had to be approved by the federal government, which is providing financial counter-guarantees for the power project, the single largest foreign investment proposal in India.

The renegotiated deal, however, was approved by the short-lived Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) government, which was aligned with Joshi's Shiv Sena (Shiva's Army).

The project again ran into trouble after Deve Gowda's center-left United Front, which took office on June 1, said it would review all the decisions of the ousted BJP government.

Foreign investors view the Enron power project as a test of the new government's pledge to continue economic reforms begun by former Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Asia, Europe Plan to Promote Investment Between Regions

Bangkok (AFP) — Asian and European representatives from the public and private sectors of 25 countries have sketched out the priorities for a plan to promote investment between the two regions, Thai officials said Tuesday.

"We have begun to inject lifeblood into the veins of the first Asia-Europe investment promotion action plan," Thai Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Staporn Kavitanon said at the close of a two-day working group meeting here.

Two areas — policies and regulations, and promotional activities — would lead the way in the formation of the plan, BOI Vice-Chairman Narongchai Akrasanee told a news conference.

"Liberalization, government policies, rules and regulations, transparency and binding commitments are what Europeans consider very important. Promotional activities are what Asians consider very important," Narongchai said.

An agreement was reached to include action on investment-related issues such as standards and certification, financial support, technology transfer skills, development and the environment within the plan, the BOI said in a statement.

Both sides agreed that these activities would have to be undertaken with private sector participation, and not only as government functions, Staporn added.

The working group was one of a series of conferences under the umbrella of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) first convened here in March.

The action plan would be considered at a senior officials' meeting on trade and investment late this month in Brussels, and then in October at an ASEM business forum in France before adoption by economic ministers, officials said.

French Central Bank Governor Urges Reforms, Mergers

Paris (AFP) - France's Central Bank governor urged major reforms of the banking system on Tuesday, saying that privileges should be abolished and that mergers were needed.

Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet said that "distortions" and monopolies had to be stopped and that "new groupings are undoubtedly needed."

French banks should consider whether now is the time "for banks to be brought together and to specialise," he said, adding: "we will help them ... to the extent of our means and responsibilities."

Presenting the annual report of the banking commission, which he chairs, Trichet said: "we must put an end to distortions of competition" in French banking and return it to "a normal legal, prescribed and fiscal environment."

Analysts, and bankers here, have long agreed that French banking is overdue for fundamental reform.

But the statement by Trichet was likely to send shock waves through French banking, which continues to reel from the effects of enormous losses incurred in the property market at the end of the 1990s.

Trichet said distortions such as monopolies of distribution of some products, or arising from the legal status of some professions had to be ended.

"The financial activities of the post office pose a very serious problem," for example, he said.

"Whatever the legal means used, the outcome must be that bankers must seek to earn profits from their shareholders' funds under comparable conditions," he added.

Banks must "restore their margins," return to "normal conditions of competition" and "control their costs," he urged.

Trichet reported that overall, 1995 had been a difficult year for French banking but that "signs of an improvement had appeared."

The banking commission will use specialists from outside the Bank of France, he said.

The commission will boost on-site supervision because risks are becoming increasingly complicated, he said.

French banks earn relatively low rates of profit, and the banking system is riddled with special arrangements arising from privileges or monopolies granted to the state to promote cheap loans for specific purposes, such as the support of farmers or the management of savings accounts under privileged conditions.

Insurance brokers complain that they cannot compete against privileged terms offered by some state-backed operators.

The President of the private Societe Generale Bank, Marc Vienot, who has challenged the state rescue of Credit Lyonnais Bank before the European Court, warned recently that big French banks would lose their place in international banking unless the government abolished special arrangements.

Credit Lyonnais is the beneficiary of aid limited by the European Commission to 45 billion francs ($9 billion).

This package was approved last July but already the bank faces serious financial problems.

The implications of reforms may be seen in the near bankruptcy of the CFF Property Bank, which reported a loss of 11 billion francs ($2.2 billion) last year.

The main body blow to CFF occurred at the end of last year when the government, in an attempt to boost the economy, introduced zero-rated housing loans that could be distributed by any bank.

Until then the CFF Bank had enjoyed an official monopoly on the issuance of cheap housing loans. Overnight, regulatory change had removed its main prop.

The scandal at credit Lyonnais exposed the way in which top civil servants moved effortlessly from ministerial offices into top jobs in banking and industry, often imposing an autocratic management style.

Another curiosity of the French banking system is the Caisse des Depots et Consignations, an enormously powerful savings institution that receives some of its funds from the public at cheap rates by statute.

A quasi-state body, it has holdings in every nook and cranny of the French economy and is frequently milked as a cash cow by the government when funds are needed urgently to prop up a state-owned company or otherwise relieve public finances.



German Unemployment Rises

NUREMBERG, Germany (AFP) - The number of people unemployed in Germany rose by 3,000 in June, seasonally-adjusted official figures showed on Tuesday, but the unadjusted rate of unemployment fell to 9.9 percent from 10 percent in May.

The President of the Federal Labor Office, Bernhard Jagoda, warned that "the labor market remains weak".

He said: "at the moment we are seeing merely seasonal normalization after a harsh winter."

The number of people unemployed in the west of the country, which accounts for most of national output, rose by 7,000 while in the east the figure fell by 3,000, the Labor Office reported.



AIDS: First the Good News

By Gwynne Dyer
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- We can't claim victory until the lab lady really sings, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of conference on AIDS in Vancouver. "She hasn't sung yet, but I think she is getting ready to sing."

The Vancouver conference, which opened on July 7, marks the first time that researchers think they are getting close to effective treatments for AIDS and its precursor, HIV infection. New combinations of drugs, particularly the class known as protease-inhibitors, are producing startling cases of remission from full-blown AIDS, and have reduced the HIV virus in the blood of HIV-positive people to undetectable levels for up to half a year.

If these early results are borne out by further tests, and if the new drugs continue to suppress the HIV virus over a period of years without severe side-effects, then this is wonderful news for millions of HIV-positive people.



AIDS
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More precisely, it is wonderful news for those HIV-positive people who live in countries that can afford the $15,000-$20,000 annual per capita cost of the treatment, and in social environments that let them follow a regimen of treatment involving up to 20 pills a day and strict dietary rules. It means nothing to the other 90 percent of HIV-infected people, who live in the Third World.

In the United States, an estimated one in 92 young men was HIV-positive in 1992. Until now, that was a delayed death sentence for the vast majority of those infected: HIV takes an average of ten years to develop into AIDS, but there was no cure.

In all, perhaps a million Americans carry the HIV virus, out of a population of 260 million. A million nightmares — but the AIDS plague has never threatened the economic and social fabric of the United States or other developed countries. And maybe now medicine will provide an escape from the nightmare, for those who can afford it. Elsewhere, the situation is very different.

In Uganda, according to a 1994 report of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, "It is estimated that half the population over 15 years of age is HIV positive." Uganda has no money to save these people even if a cure is found — so half its adult population is destined to die in the next ten years.

This is a level of casualties normally associated only with scenarios for nuclear holocaust, but it is happening in Uganda now. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated two years ago that life expectancy in Uganda, projected at 59 years before AIDS began decimating the population, will fall to only 32 years by 2010.

The rest of west, central and east Africa faces a catastrophe only slightly less dramatic: Over half the hospital beds in several big cities in the region are now occupied by AIDS patients. Even South Africa, where health care and nutrition are well above the continental average, now has an HIV infection rate of 7.6 percent.

Infection rates are also so high in some non-African countries that they have drastic implications for population size. The same 1994 U.S. Census Bureau report estimated that in Brazil, Haiti and Thailand, plus the 13 worst-affected African countries, the cumulative AIDS toll by 2010 will be so great as to leave them with 121 million fewer people than was previously forecast.

New protease-inhibiting drugs will save almost none of these lives — nor these of the tens of millions of people in Asian countries like India and the Philippines where HIV infections are spreading just as fast, but are less well reported. The hope dawning in Vancouver is only hope for the relatively rich. But there is hope of a less expensive variety dawning elsewhere.

Two recent public-health programs, one in Africa and one in Asia, have shown tremendous success in reducing the rate of HIV infection.

Three years ago, the Tanzanian government and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine selected twelve villages along the shores of Lake Victoria where HIV was spreading through the population at the rate of 1 percent a year.

In half, they gave the village health centers extra training and low-cost drugs to deal with other sexually-transmitted diseases (thought to be a factor in HIV infection), and an education program encouraged the villagers to seek treatment for venereal diseases. In the other six villages, they left things as they were.

At the end of two years, the difference was stark. New HIV infections in the six villages that got extra attention were 42 percent lower than in the others. "Now, for the first time, we have a study which has shown that a relatively simple intervention in one of the world's poorest countries has a very substantial impact," said Professor David Mahey of the London School.

Thailand is a far richer country than Tanzania, but there the same effect has been produced nationwide.

Working with 1991 data, the U.S. Census Bureau predicted that AIDS deaths in Thailand would soar so fast that the average lifespan would fall from 75 to only 45 years — and that the country's population would actually fall one percent by 2010. The man most responsible for turning this situation around is Mechai Viravaidya, the director of the Population and Community Development Association, also known as the 'condom king'.

Mechai's genius for publicity is epitomized by the 'Cabbages and Condoms' restaurant he runs in east-central Bangkok. He first made his name with a brilliantly successful birth-control program in the 70s and 80s: With full government support but no compulsion, he helped to reduce the size of the average Thai family from seven children to only two in just 20 years.

In 1991, when the Thais realized the size of their AIDS problem, Mechai was the obvious man to turn to. "We made a projection that if nothing were done from 1991 onwards to the year 2000, we would have between 2 million and 4 million HIV-positive cases," he told me late last year. "The situation is actually far worse in other (Asian) countries, but they don't know their exact problem, so they sit there and smile. They expect people to fall over in the streets. That's not what happens with AIDS."

"We knew that if we did nothing, these would be the numbers, these would be the economic and social consequences. As a result, we did a lot. Public education was available on television and radio, compulsory in fact. Every hour, there must be a half-minute of AIDS education on every radio and every television station."

"There is AIDS education in the last two years of all primary schools. AIDS education was done in offices and factories, and in the rural communities through the schools and the village committees. And we also cooperated with the movie and television industry: If they produce regular films and soap operas with an AIDS theme added in, the government subsidized them."

"As a result, 1991 was the year that new HIV cases peaked in Thailand. From 1991 to today, we have seen a 77 percent decline in sexually transmitted diseases, and we believe a very similar decline in new cases of HIV. The projections for the year 2000 are no longer relevant. Behavior change has occurred."

What Thailand has done, any other country can do. What Tanzania is doing, even the poorest countries can afford to do, or can get enough foreign aid to do. The heartening news out of Vancouver will give little solace to the millions of doomed HIV-positive people in poor countries, but there are ways to keep tens of millions more from joining them.

Total Obtains Licence to Produce Oil in Far North of Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — The French oil company Total has won a license to produce oil from fields at Khariaga in the far north of Russia, Energy Minister Yuri Shafranik said on Tuesday.

The field is in the autonomous territory of Nenets and lies 60 kilometers (40 miles) inside the Arctic circle.

Total became the first European oil company in December to sign a production-sharing agreement with Russia. This led to the granting of the license.

Shafranik, quoted by the Interfax news agency, praised the persistence shown by Total which had worked on the project for five years, saying he hoped that the French company would invest about one billion dollars.

Pile-Driving City-on-the-Sea Project Seeks History

JOHORE BAHRU, Malaysia (AFP) – A pioneering Malaysian construction firm is looking for a place in the record books with a plan to build a commercial city over the sea.

Pilecon Engineering BHD. launched work on July 5 to create a city off the southern Malaysian state of Johore, bordering Singapore, at a cost of six billion ringgit ($2.4 billion).

The Johore Bahru waterfront city project will not be sitting on reclaimed land as most other seafront projects.

Instead, it will be sited on 118 acres (47.2 hectares) of land mass created by driving 15,000 concrete piles into the seabed.

"Rather than attempt to use conventional methods of reclaiming land from the sea, it would be possible to actually build a completely new city over the sea, using piling and decking to support a network of roads and buildings all connected by bridges," said Hong Lee Pee, executive chairman of Pilecon.

The 55-year-old engineer knows what he is talking about because of his wide piling expertise, which has landed the company lucrative building contracts in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Several piling processes he invented have revolutionized building technology globally, industry officials said.

Four types of piles have also been patented under his name.

One of them is called "Tripile", short for triangular pile, as opposed to the conventional round piles. The Tripile, Hong said, was widely being used in Europe for supporting buildings of up to five to 10 storeys.

Hong, a locally-trained engineering graduate, is gunning for his fifth patented pile. "It is product of sparring with my daughter, currently a final year civil engineering student in Monash University in Australia."

He is excited about the challenge to develop the Johore Bahru waterfront city because "it will be the world's largest single city development on the sea."

Hong chose the piling-based development concept for the project because he said it was more environmentally-friendly than traditional reclamation that could affect marine life.

Plans are also underway to set up an underwater marine park with submarine glassed walkways and attractions.

The unique city-above-the-sea project, to be completed over 15 years, will comprise 41 blocks of commercial, residential and hotel developments.

There will be 20 million square feet (1.8 million square meters) of gross built-up area over the sea.

It will add 10 million square feet (900,000 square meters) net commercial and residential space to the existing central business district of Johore Baharu, capital of Johore State.

Johore is booming economically on the back of spillover manufacturing projects from neighboring Singapore whose investors have taken up a large stake in the initial part of the waterfront city project.

In front of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who launched work on the huge project Friday, Hong and his army of workers pledged to complete the venture successfully and earn a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Hong's pilecon posted a 23 percent rise in annual group pre- tax profit to 55.7 million ringgit in 1995 on a 56 percent jump in turnover to 578.2 million ringgit.

The company is a majority shareholder of Strarch International Ltd., an Australian public-listed technology company, and has set up a joint venture with Sweden's Fabriksmontering I Trelleborg to participate in the construction of the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, south of Kuala Lumpur.

South Koreans Plead Not Guilty to Murder in Exorcism

LOS ANGELES (AFP) – Three men accused of killing a South Korean woman during a religious ritual pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges of murder.

Jin Choi, 46, Sung Choi, 41 (not related) and Joe Chung, the 39-year-old husband of the woman, pleaded not guilty to the murder charges.

Kyung Chung, 53, died of internal injuries caused by blunt force trauma and broken ribs, according to the coroner's report.

Police detectives said the men used their hands to inflict the injuries, but would not be more specific.

Solemn and dressed in blue prison garb, each man individually entered the not guilty plea. Friends and relatives of the men packed the court room.

The judge set July 18 for a bail hearing and will also set a date for a preliminary hearing at that time. Each man is being held on a $1 million bond.

Chung's attorney, Robert Sheahey, said the woman's husband is devastated by his wife's death and never intended to harm her.

"He is as aggrieved as anybody over this. There is absolutely no intent to kill. Without intent there cannot be murder," Sheahey said of Chung.

Chung and his wife had worked as missionaries for 20 years in Bangladesh where they have two children.

In yet unexplained circumstances, the Chungs met up with the Chois during a trip to the United States where they had planned to attend a missionary seminar in Chicago.

"The woman totally consented to this, requested this and this is an accepted religious practice of the Methodist religion ... in Korea and Bangladesh," said Sheahey.

He declined to discuss what the religious rituals entailed.

"This is a perfectly legitimate religious activity which had a terrible, unfortunate and unforeseeable result," Sheahey said.

"The police have called it an exorcism. I think the police have been watching way too many movies."

Local television have been running clips of the movie "The Exorcist" focusing on scenes where a possessed child spins her head around spewing green bile on the priest performing the ritual.

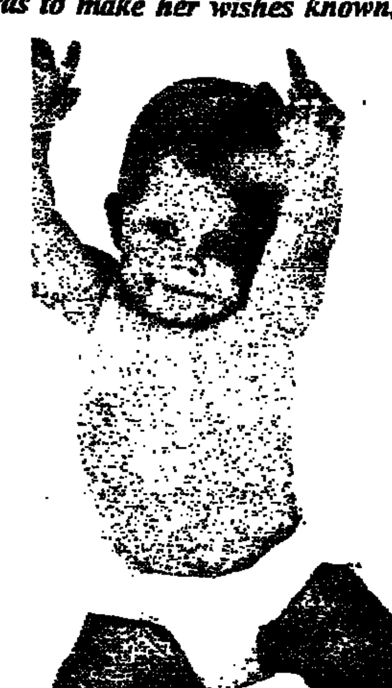
Body Talk — Your Baby's Non-Verbal Language Skills

Your baby doesn't need words to make her wishes known, she has her body

Even before your baby can speak she knows the rules of spoken language and will take her turn, gurgling in response to your questions. It may take her three years to be able to tell you she wants her peanut butter sandwich on white bread without crusts but long before then she can voice that sort of demand she will always try to let her wishes be known to you.

It isn't surprising that we often know what she means. Even when we can use words, we read body language. Consciously and unconsciously we take in the signs from the way someone smiles to the way he fingers his tie. We often can't put into words but we 'know that someone is nervous or down in the dumps. More than that, we often get a 'feel' about what a person is like and how that person feels about us. With a baby it's all we have — and all she has — to build an understanding. So how do we do it and what do we see?





Take up arms

Hello There

We all give signs of interest as we interact. Some, like nodding agreement, are easy to recognize, while others we may do without realizing. But even on her first day, your baby will join in the conversation. She will relax when she smells you near her and later when she hears your voice.

Body language is the basis of all your conversations. If you keep on smiling without stopping for her to take a turn, she'll almost certainly cry. It frightens her, as it would you.

Say Cheese!

All babies smile, even blind babies. By the time your baby is about six weeks she will be smiling at the sound of your voice and the way your head moves. It is only at about three months that she needs a face to make her smile.

Kicking Out

There is a fairly mundane reason for kicking — it keeps the muscles and joints in trim for walking. Babies' kicks express pressure excitement, pain and rage. When she sees something bright and shiny, it's excitement that makes her kick; when she draws her legs up and cries, it's probably pain. And there is a great deal of satisfaction in hitting the rattle you have tied to her cot, or feeling the liberation of a nappy-free bottom.

Cry Babies

Crying is difficult to ignore, it pulls at our heartstrings, which is the point of it. A baby is utterly dependent — a smile says share my pleasure, a cry says 'help'. Some people believe it is possible to tell the difference between cries of need, terror, pain and loneliness. Others claim babies cry by degrees — that heartbreak at being left alone in their cot is actually indistinguishable from the distress caused by physical pain.

Cuddling Up

A little warm cheek against yours, and a head snuggled into your shoulder is a very special feeling. So is the endearing way your baby learns to set her little legs and bottom into a sitting shine to fit you whether sitting or standing.

She doesn't even know you exist when you go out of the room, no wonder she likes to feel her skin next to yours. She is simply saying 'I feel secure'.

Historically, we swaddled babies to make them feel 'cuddled' and secure. In other parts of the world they are carried strapped to their mothers, and it is said that babies in China, Japan and Africa who are always carried do cry less. Studies here suggest that carrying from birth may reduce the likelihood of babies developing colic.



Hello there

Take Up Arms

Babies start to use language before they use words. Deaf babies can be taught to talk with their hands before hearing babies learn to use words. Children have more problems saying words than understanding them. From about eight months you may see her 'action words'. But as well as the early recognizable 'pick me up', 'give it to me' and 'I don't like lam broth', she may have actions for a few other words. My son had a special signs for bus and most children have one that says 'do it again'.

No! No! No!

We all recognize 'No! I don't like liver and bacon dinner' as she turns her head and spits it out. Or 'No! I don't want my highhair' when her body goes stiff. 'No socks!' and she kicks her feet — and even after you have put them on she will take them off.

Saying no is one of the few ways she has of asserting herself and is a sign of her developing self-awareness and independence, which is probably why she sometimes seems to do it simply for the sake of it. If you were at her end of the spoon wouldn't you?

(Courtesy Parents Magazine)

Spanish Doctors Develop New Cholesterol Test

MADRID (Reuter) - Two Spanish doctors said they have discovered a revolutionary new way of detecting high cholesterol which could save hundreds of lives and make diagnosis possible on the internet.

Blood tests would become a thing of the past if other scientists confirm their finding that sustained high blood cholesterol levels can be detected in the nerve links between the brain and the eyes.

Antonio Alcala and Jose Maria Lopez have developed a computerized eye test which gives a personalized analysis of the patient's risk of heart disease, Alcala told Reuters.

"The test is based on 21 numerical variables and therefore is very reliable," Alcala said. "It can determine whether a patient's risk of heart disease is low, medium or high."

The analysis is performed by an ophtalmologist who feeds the data into the computer program. "An American can get the test done by an ophtalmologist and feed the data into the program on the internet," Alcala said.

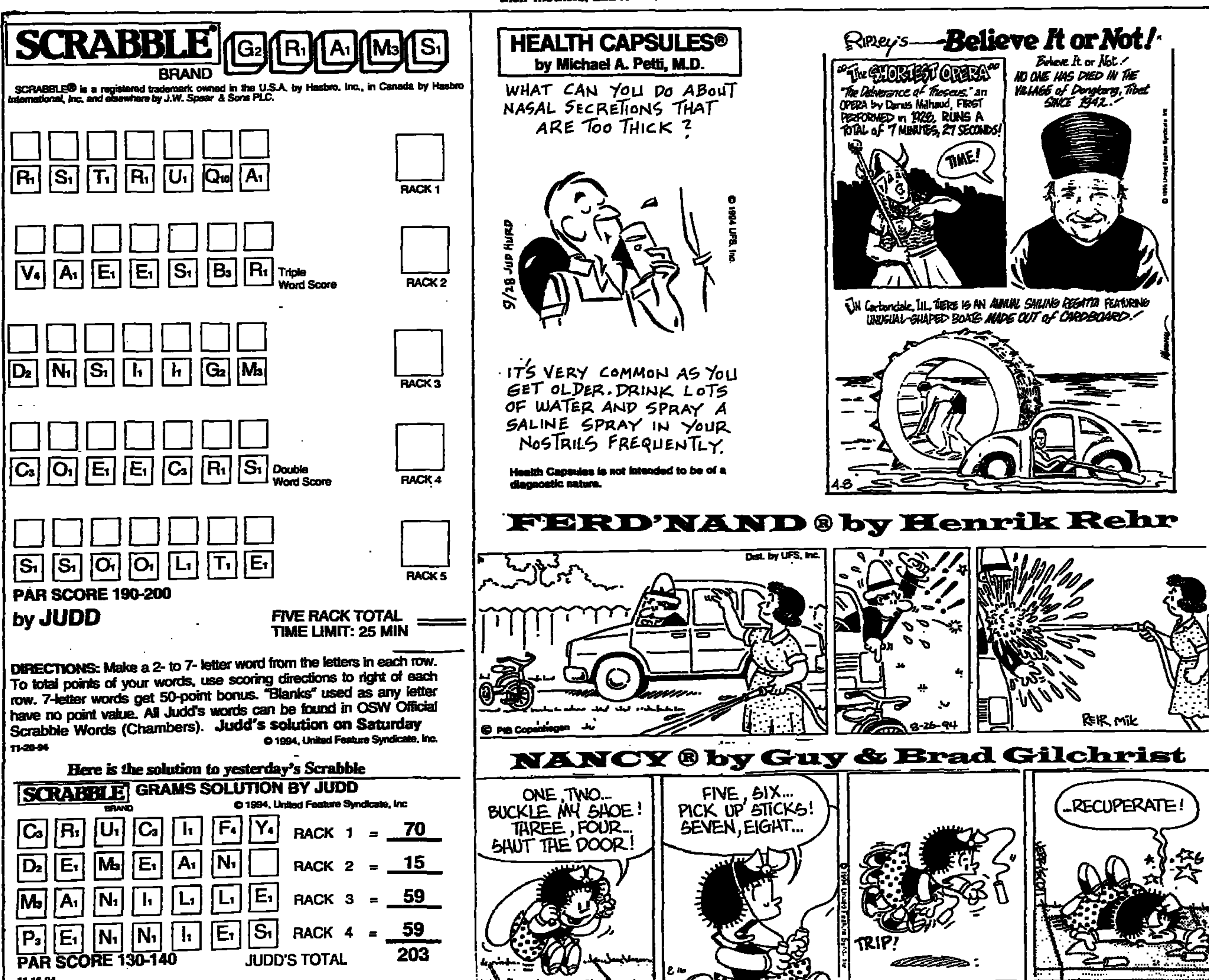
"We have been able to demonstrate that high and sustained levels of cholesterol provoke something which until now has not been described in worldwide medical literature," a statement from both doctors said.

"This is that the optical link including the cerebral cortex ...is affected by sustained high blood cholesterol levels."

Another finding is that people with allergies have a 'genetic protection' against the possible effects of cholesterol, the doctors said.

"These results are revolutionary from every point of view as this would mean that patients with allergies...have an important asset in lengthening their life expectancy," a statement by both doctors said.

Alcala is a specialist in ophtalmology and Lopez in endocrinology. Both work in Malaga, southern Spain, and their research is privately conducted and funded.



THOUGHT

I BELIEVE in the discipline of silence and can talk for hours about it.

George Bernard Shaw
Irish-born playwright

PRAYER

Noon 13:10
Evening 20:45
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:03
Sunrise (tomorrow) 5:58



هكذا من الأصل

In the Name of Allah

Tender No. 75/17

Telecommunications Company of Iran

Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI) intends to purchase by way of an international tender the required IDR/DCME equipment of international earth stations as per the technical specifications attached to draft of contract as well as the tender conditions.

Non-Iranian firms having an agent in Iran willing to participate in the tender may refer to Room 306, the Secretariat of Purchasing & Contracts Dept. (P&C Dept.), Building No. 5, Dr. Shariati Ave. within office hours, receive a letter of introduction, deposit the amount of Rls.100,000 through their official agents to TCI's Account No. 90018 and collect the tender documents consisting of draft of contract tender conditions & technical specifications taking the content into consideration. The bidders are requested to prepare their offers in 3 sealed envelopes marked A, B and C, hand it to the Secretariat of P&C Dept. at the above address latest by the end of office hours on Sep. 15, 96 against a receipt.

Deputy Managing Director for Finance, Procurement and Manpower
Telecommunications Company of Iran
Address: Bldg. No. 5, Bisim, Dr. Ali Shariati Ave., Tehran-Iran



Feud With Thatcher Continues as Heath Turns 80

LONDON (Reuter) — A great European statesman? Or a bad loser with a giant ego?

As Sir Edward Heath, the former British prime minister, celebrates his 80th birthday on Tuesday, both views of him are common within the Conservative Party which he led.

For the pro-European left of the party, Heath is the man who led Britain into the European Community, and who, before the party embraced an unfettered free market ideology, could speak of 'the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism'.

For the right, his only achievement in office was the dubious one of bringing Britain into Brussels' clutches.

They cannot forgive him for having sniped morosely from the sidelines throughout the premiership of what they regard as his far more successful and dynamic successor Margaret Thatcher.

And they cite Heath's failure to invite Thatcher to his birthday celebrations as showing his resentment still endures.

"In the eyes of the right, he is, always has been, stubborn, resentful and wrong, the last relic of a... now happily distant era, when the Conservative Party pursued the politics of moderation,' Lord Ian Gilmour, Heath's former defense secretary, wrote in a recent article.

Heath's four years in office ended in 1974 in a bitter confrontation with the then-mighty national union of mineworkers whose national strike resulted in darkened streets and most of the population forced to work just a three-day week.

When he called a general election on the issue of 'Who Governs?', most vote gave him a dusty answer, ushering in a labor government.

The following year, Conservative MPs used their newly-granted powers to elect the party leader to jettison him in favor of Thatcher, once his lowly education secretary.

When she came to government in 1979, Thatcher did nothing to soothe Heath's damaged pride, although he might well have refused any post she offered him.

Heath refused to retire gracefully to pursue his hobbies of music and sailing, but soldiered on as an MP, constantly criticizing when Thatcher took a hard line against Brussels, notably on Britain's contribution to the community budget.

Even though Thatcher was herself hounded from office in 1990 because of discontent with her leadership, Heath remains a sharp critic of the current government.

In a BBC radio interview on Monday, he attacked the Conservatives' latest attempt to discredit labor with a 'new labor, new danger' advertising campaign as 'absolutely wrong' in failing to accentuate the positive conservative message.

And he insisted the time was coming to go onto the attack against senior members of the government who were pushing Prime Minister John Major towards disengagement from Europe. "It may...be that the time has now come to shout out," said Heath.

If the Conservatives lose the election which is due by next May, as polls show they are likely to do, many observers believe the ructions over Europe in the party will become so intense that it might even split irrevocably.

Heath intends to be around to join in the battle — he has already been readopted as candidate in his safe old Bexley and Sidcup seat in south-east England, even though he could be nearly 86 by the time the next Parliament ends.

Chernomyrdin Receives Liberal Opposition Chief Yavlinsky

Moscow (AFP) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held talks Tuesday with the leading liberal Grigory Yavlinsky as part of wide-ranging consultations following Boris Yeltsin's re-election as president, Russian news agencies reported.

Yavlinsky said afterwards the three-hour meeting had covered economic topics and might be followed up by a further session next week on the new government which Chernomyrdin is putting together.

Yavlinsky said future discussions could be about Mikhail Zadornov, a member of Yavliknsky's Yabloko Party, joining the government.

Zadornov, an economist and chairman of the Finance and Budgetary Committee of the Lower House in Moscow, is being tipped in some quarters to succeed Vladimir Panskov as finance minister.

Yavlinsky himself ran in the first round of the presidential election on June 16, finishing fourth of 10 candidates and receiving 7.43 percent of the vote.



TEMELIN, Czech Republic (July 8): Police and security unit members load onto a police van one of the environmentalists who hurled themselves on the road in front of an oncoming bus during the second day of a protest-blockade at the entrances to the unfinished nuclear power plant in Temelin. Police removed protesters from two of the nine entrances on this morning.

(AFP PHOTO

Bhutto's Party Bags Two More Seats in Pakistan Kashmir Polls

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan-Controlled Kashmir, (AFP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party added two more seats in Legislative Assembly elections in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir after re-polling in seven constituencies Tuesday, officials said.

Re-voting was held at 45 polling stations where elections were disrupted on June 30.

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) majority in the 40-seat state Assembly has risen to 28, while the state's ruling Muslim Conference (MC) Party candidates boosted their holdings two seats to seven in total.

Three seats have gone to independents and one to the Jamaat Islami Party. Complete re-polling will be held on Thursday in another constituency in Bhimber district where violence between rival groups prevented voting last week.

The PPP is expected to form the new government after the Assembly holds its first session by July 30, replacing the state administration led by Sardar Abdul Qayyum.

Officials said tight security arrangements were made during the re-polling which was held "in a peaceful and smooth manner."

The MC earlier rejected the polls, alleging "massive fraud" by the PPP and called for fresh elections under army supervision.

PPP leaders denied the charges of vote rigging, saying that the voters had rejected MC because of performance in governing the state.

Pakistan controls the northern third of the disputed Kashmir state while the rest is administered by India.

S. Koreans Plead not Guilty to Murder in Religious Ritual

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Three men accused of killing a South Korean woman during a religious ritual pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges of murder.

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Local television has been running clips of the movie "the exorcist" focusing on scenes where a possessed child spins her head around spewing green bile on the priest performing the ritual.

Chirac Sees Sharp Fall in Popularity

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppe continued a decline in popularity in a poll to be published on Thursday in the weekly l'Express.

Chirac shed seven points to a 40 percent approval rating compared with May, and Juppe dropped three points to 34 percent in the poll carried out by Gallup.

Those polled were asked if they approved or disapproved of Chirac's and Juppe's performance.

The pair had stabilized or improved in recent polls but a survey by the Sofres Institute for the Weekly Figaro Magazine last Saturday said Chirac dropped five points to 42 percent of favorable opinions on a month ago while Juppe lost four points to 34 percent with 64 percent of negative opinions.

Chirac and Juppe plummeted in opinion polls last year, only months after taking office, to levels unprecedented in the annals of the Fifth Republic, founded by the late General Charles de Gaulle in 1958.





Shanghai Hard to Sell to International Tourists

SHANGHAI (Reuter) – Shanghai's city government wants to turn this booming business and industrial center into a tourist mecca as well — but it's having a hard time selling the concept.

With one of the most densely populated and polluted places on earth currently in turmoil from more than 10,000 thundering construction sites, it is not hard to see why international tourist arrivals are almost stagnant.

"Shanghai is a place for business, not tourism. ... The air is bad for your health. For a holiday, we Germans prefer to go to Spain or skiing, or to Indonesia. No, I will not be telling my friends to come here as tourists."

Domestic tourists come in droves to Shanghai, China's largest city, to spend in the department stores and marvel at modern buildings they cannot see at home.

But international tourists with U.S. dollars in the pockets are more interested in visiting Hong Kong, Beijing, Xian and other more exotic parts of China.

"Shanghai is a place for business, not tourism," said Horst Kuppels, a German businessman in the city on a two-day visit in one of the many new high-class hotels built since 1990 as part of a strategy to becoming a major tourist destination.

"The air is bad for your health," he said. "For a holiday, we Germans prefer to go to Spain or skiing, or to Indonesia. No, I will not be telling my friends to come here as tourists."

A manager at one of Shanghai's joint venture hotels said foreigners came to Shanghai mainly for business.

"There are not many tourist places compared to Beijing. You can see the major ones in a one- or two-day tour," he said. "People come to China to see more exotic places. But the shopping is good, especially for Chinese goods and antiques."

In 1995, Shanghai attracted 1.368 million foreign tourists, up 3.5 percent from 1994 but a fraction of the more than 10 million tourists who went to Hong Kong last year.

But these disadvantages do not deter the city fathers.

"We want to become not only a economic, financial and trade center but also a rich cultural and tourist city," declared Mayor Xu Huangdi earlier this year.

"We do not have the natural scenery of (the Chinese provinces of) Guangxi, Yunnan and Sichuan nor the Disneylands of Japan and the United States," said Vice Mayor Gong Xueping last month. "But as an international city, we can attract tourists."

"The key is to develop more places for tourists to visit, so that they stay longer than the current average two days. ... We will make the Suzhou creek like the Seine in Paris."

"The key is to develop more places for tourists to visit, so that they stay longer than the current average two days," said Hua Lisheng, assistant manager at the upmarket Jinjiang Hotel.

To this end, the city opened this year a world-class museum of Chinese art near to where a French-designed opera house with 2,000 seats is being built. It also intends to open a large concert hall.

In addition, blue-prints exist for new golf courses, a resort area and a circus arena.

Currently, most tourists visit the 16th century classical Yu Gardens, stroll along the historic bund overlooking the Huangpu River and watch acrobatic performances.

The historically-minded visit the house where China's Communist Party was born and the former homes of famous Chinese — Sun Yatsen, Zhou Enlai, Song Chingling and author Lu Xun.

For 1,200 yuan ($145), you can spend a night in the bed of the Jiang Qing, the widow of Chairman Mao, on the second floor of a delightful three-storey french-style home with a well-kept garden.

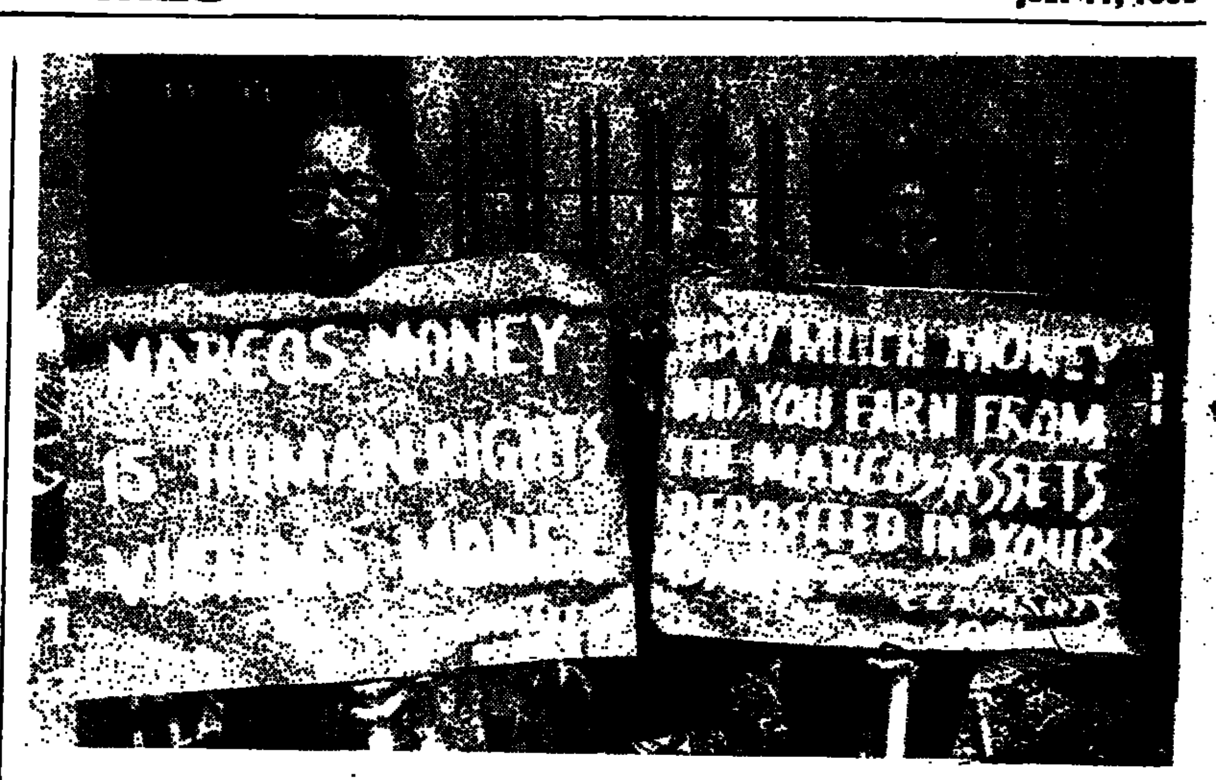
The home, which belonged to a foreign businessman before World War II, was used by Communist Party leaders after 1949, including Jiang during her frequent visits to the city, before being turned into a hotel.

The most popular tourist attraction in the city is a new television tower, called the Pearl of the Orient, which attracts an average 5,000 visitors a day and double that on busy days.

Visitors pay 50 yuan to ride the lift to a podium giving them a spectacular view of the city — smog permitting.

Visitors can also see the water of Suzhou creek turned black with pollution.

But Hua of the Jinjiang Hotel still has faith the Sow's ear will be turned into silk, eventually. "We will make the Suzhou creek like the Seine in Paris."



MANILA, Philippines (July 9): Nemia Abarruza, 75, and Etelita Topacio, 66, whose sons were victims of human rights abuse during the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' regime, hold placards during a protest outside the Swiss Embassy in suburban Manila. The protesters urged Swiss authorities to release $475 million the Marcos family had deposited in Swiss banks and claimed by the human rights victims as compensation for their suffering.

(AFP PHOTO)



Incineration, Landfill Plans Threaten Mediterranean Countries

MALTA (AFP) – Plans for waste incinerators and landfills in southern Mediterranean countries pose a hazard to public health and the environment, a Greenpeace report published here Wednesday said.

The report, "The Burning Truth — Incineration in the Mediterranean", said incinerators and landfills being proposed in Malta, Lebanon, Turkey, Israel and other states could cause serious pollution.

The organization said it was a myth that incineration and landfills were an environmentally acceptable solution to the current waste crisis.

The move towards incineration in the Mediterranean states would encourage waste trade and divert capital from waste prevention and recycling programmes, the report said.

"Under the guise of 'transfer of environmentally-sound technology for sustainable development,' the West's hazardous and unwanted technologies are now being exported to Malta, Lebanon, Turkey, Israel and other southern Mediterranean states," said Dr. Mario Damato of the Greenpeace Mediterranean office in Malta.

"All countries in the region must be prevented from falling into the vicious circle of waste production, incineration and landfilling," he added.

The Greenpeace report said that regardless of standards and even under ideal conditions, incinerators release toxic substances like heavy metals.

It highlighted metals like mercury, lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic and beryllium as the most problematic in waste incineration, all of which, it said, were known or suspected carcinogens.

"The governments in the region are looking for short-term, quick solutions to the waste problem," said Dr. Damato.

Greenpeace called for an immediate ban on burning waste containing chlorinated products, and for the introduction of plans to phase out the existing incinerators in the region and halt the construction of new ones.

It also said a ban on dumping and said that imports of toxic waste in landfills should be imposed. Resources should instead be given over to waste prevention and recycling and composting household waste, it said.

According to another AFP report from Geneva, insurance companies, stung by huge payouts following natural disasters, on Tuesday called on an international conference for urgent action to check toxic gas emissions blamed for global warming and other climatic change.

A group representing some 60 insurance companies from all over the world, addressed a two-week gathering of 150 countries, which opened here on Monday to address the problem of environmental change.

The insurance sector is suffering the consequences of a series of violent storms which has cost it billions of dollars since 1987, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) said.

Weather disasters have led to a dramatic rise in insurance claims, stiffer criteria for granting insurance policies and higher premiums, according to the UNEP.

Hans Adlerr, director of the UNEP European office, warned: "Climate change and society's response to it may have important repercussions on stock market."

"Products and industries that are heavily dependent on climate or energy may become less attractive to investors," he added.

"An early, planned effort to control greenhouse gas emissions would reduce the likelihood of an abrupt negative reaction in the stock market," he continned.

Among the companies attending the Geneva conference are Britain's General Accident, Gerling-Konzern Global Reinsurance of Germany, the Swiss Re Company and Sumitomo Marine and Fire Insurance of Japan.

In a position paper presented at the Geneva conference, the insurance companies acknowledge continuing uncertainty about the precise impact of human activity on global warming.

They agree with the conclusion of some 2,000 scientists who met at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and declared last year that human activity has a "discernible influence" on climate.

And they added: "It is not possible to quantify anticipated economic and social impacts of climate change fully before taking action."

U.S. Opens Second Plant to Solidify Nuclear Waste

WASHINGTON (Reuter) – The Energy Department said on Monday it had started turning highly radioactive liquid waste into glass at a new plant in New York State.

The $1.5 billion plant at West Valley, 35 miles (55 km) south of Buffalo, is the second in the United States at which nuclear waste is solidified for long-term storage, the department said.

It will vitrify, or process into glass, more than 600,000 gallons (2.2 million liters) of liquid radioactive waste left from a commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant that once operated on the site.

A joint project of the Energy Department and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the plant will process the waste over the next 2 1/2 years for storage in 300 stainless steel canisters.

The canisters, which weigh nearly 5,000 pounds (2,200 kg) each, will be ready for long-term storage, although the federal government has not decided on the location for that.

The department opened a waste processing plant at Savannah River, South Carolina, in march to process enough waste from federal weapons programmes to fill 6,000 canisters.

"We think the combination of the two facilities puts the United States into the forefront of technology in this area," Energy Undersecretary Tom Grumbly said in a telephone briefing.

Grumbly said U.S. technology is "a hit more robust" than comparable techniques in France and Britain.

The West Valley vitrification plant took 14 years to design, build and test. It is operated by Westinghouse Electric Co. under a contract with the Energy Department.

West Valley was the site of the only commercial nuclear waste reprocessing plant in the country, which closed in the 1970s. Spent fuel from utility reactors as well as some federal nuclear waste was reprocessed there.

Apple Enters Technology Agreement With Singapore Firm

SINGAPORE (AFP) – U.S. computer-maker Apple Computer Inc. signed its first manufacturing and technology licence agreement Tuesday with a Singapore firm in a move aimed at leveraging on the resources of its corporate allies.

The agreement allows St Electronics Systems Assembly Pte. Ltd. (STESA) to build the latest Apple-designed monitors for the U.S. computer-maker and to use Apple technology to manufacture monitors for other computer vendors.

STESA, which is a part of the government-linked Singapore Technologies Group, will spend 10 million dollars (U.S.$7.14 million) to set up a factory to manufacture the monitors for the high-end market, officials said.

It would commence production by early 1997.

"By working closely with strategic allies in areas where they add most value to our business, we can continue to invest in areas of our core competence," said Peter Tan, managing director of the Singapore arm of Apple.

"Today's agreement is the first implementation of Apple's strategy on such a large scale," he added.

Although Apple has had deals with contract manufacturers, the agreement with STESA marks the first time it has entered a long-term strategic arrangement involving technology transfer, officials said.

"It is a way for Apple to leverage on the best resources that we can find," an Apple official said.

"For example, it would make little sense for Apple to build (computer systems) ground-up, right from the keyboards, coming up with huge investments," he said.

Taiwanese and South Korean manufacturers are big players in the computer display market but not in the high-end segment of building high-performance, high-fidelity, multimedia monitors that STESA is targeting.

"Our first job is to manufacture quality monitors for Apple," said S.C. Tien, president of the electronics division of Singapore Technologies.

"At the same time we intend to use the advanced process technology that we are licensing from Apple to make monitors for other computer vendors.

"Further we intend to set up our own research and development center to further develop the process technology and to develop new monitor products of our own for the future," he said.

The core businesses of Singapore Technologies are technology, engineering, infrastructure, property and finance.

Singapore is one of the three worldwide manufacturing sites of Apple Computer. Its facility here manufactures the Macintosh Performa and Power Macintosh computer systems for Apple's Asian, Australian and Japanese markets and Apple display products for worldwide distribution.

War Children Blame African Leaders for Their Plight

YAOUNDE (Reuter) – A group of children from Africa's conflict zones accused heads of state attending a summit in Cameroon of abandoning them to the whims of the continent's warlords, some of whom have large armies of child soldiers.

"You are the leaders, you are the adults creating problems for us," said Christopher Okello, 17, a former child soldier from Uganda, in his address to the heads of state on the opening day of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit.

"You think only of yourselves. Why don't you have peace talks to end the wars," he challenged, abandoning his prepared speech for the gathering of about 30 heads of state.

None of the leaders seated in the plenary session in formal attire betrayed any emotion as the young man addressed them from a dais on behalf of 120 children who had attended a two-day mock summit before the main event.

The UN children's agency UNICEF organized the mini-summit to focus attention on the plight of children caught up in Africa's endless conflicts and the problems they spawn –child soldiers, landmines and general insecurity.

The tragedy of child soldiers was played out to television viewers around the world in newsfilm showing children as young as 10 firing away happily when ethnic warfare exploded in the Liberian capital last April.

The OAU, accused in the past of doing little to halt bloodshed across the continent, appears determined to act and has put conflict on the top of its agenda.

Foreign ministers who prepared the summit have drafted a resolution calling for sanctions on warlords in Liberia's six-year-old civil war, including the setting up of a UN war crimes tribunal to try them if regional peace efforts fail.

The summit is also discussing ethnic fighting in Burundi and Rwanda and anarchy in Somalia and the accompanying refugee crisis – most of whose victims are women and children.

Reading from the mini-summit's conclusions, Okello said the children noted with regret that African leaders spent vast sums of money on arms.

"We wish that money to be used for economic activities, education, peace and more children's summits," he added, drawing laughter with his last suggestion.

"No child soldiers, no child soldiers" all 60 children chanted, clinched fists in the air.

"You should disarm all child soldiers and set sanctions on countries that do not respect the lives of children," said Angela Massaley, 17, from Sierra Leone.

She called for the setting up of safe havens for children in war-ravaged countries.

"Your message has been heard. I assure you," said Cameroonian President Paul Biya, speaking as the new chairman of the OAU.

"We want our children to live in security and dignity. During our meeting here we are going to discuss seriously the convention on the rights of the child."

The summit is expected to adopt a resolution on the plight of children in armed conflicts. The draft contains an appeal to the OAU's 53 member states to ban the use of anti-personnel landmines, refrain from recruiting children under the age of 18 in armed conflict and sign and ratify the African charter on the rights and welfare of the child.

NATO Has "No Future" in Peacekeeping

UGLJEVIK, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) – NATO has "no future" in peacekeeping operations, despite its successful record in Bosnia, the commander of the Russian brigade helping to implement the Bosnia peace, said here.

"We are civilized enough to undertake multi-national missions without having to call on this machine," General Alexander Lenchov told journalists, referring to NATO's leadership of Peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

He agreed with U.S. military leaders that cooperation between the former Cold War foes in Bosnia was going well, though it was clear that in Moscow and Washington this success was interpreted differently.

For Washington and the NATO leadership, future relations between NATO and Russia should mirror the kind of cooperation achieved in Bosnia - in other words a stable relationship based on mutual trust.

In the Russian view however, the Bosnia operation demonstrates that Russia can work with the United States, rather than with NATO.

"We have shown that Russians and Americans can work together" at military level, Lenchov said at a meeting with the press at his headquarters in Ugljevik in northeastern Bosnia.

He said there was therefore no reason why NATO should seek to expand into eastern Europe.

"If the alliance has money to burn, then let it expand," he ironized.

Lenchov was critical of officials on the civilian side of the Dayton peace accords, who he said were content to "observe" while not doing enough.

"Just when we need strong support from the press and from television in preparing the elections due in September, all the media is talking about is the battle between Carl Bildt (the top official in charge of civilian affairs) and Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic", Lenchov said referring to the two Bosnian Serb leaders charged with war crimes and genocide.

Lenchov said IFOR troops had done what was expected of them whereas the civilians were well behind schedule.

Asked if he believed one year — the length of IFOR's mandate — was enough to pacify Bosnia, Lenchov said it was impossible. "At the end of the year, nobody will be able to say the job is done," he said poiting to the antagonism persisting between Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

Red Cross Steps Up Medical Supplies for Somalia's War Victims

NAIROBI (AFP) -- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) have stepped up emergency medical supplies for Somalia's victims of the country's ongoing civil war, flooding and cholera, the ICRC said in a statement released here on Tuesday.

The statement said that since fighting broke out in the Somali capital Mogadishu in June, the ICRC and the SRCS had stepped up their activities to ensure that all medical facilities treating the war wounded received emergency supplies.

In total, the statement said, 4.5 tons of supplies were airlifted to Mogadishu to support existing emergency stocks for treatment of some 400 war wounded in the past one month.

The ICRC and the SRCS were continuing their work to assist the victims of the fighting, despite very difficult security conditions emanating from continued sporadic fighting in the divided Somali capital.

North Mogadishu is controlled by the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) faction of self-styled Somali interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and the south by his arch-rival General Mohamed Farah Aidid's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction.

The ICRC has also stepped up emergency food and medical assistance for victims of the recent flooding in the Juba valley region, the statement said, pointing out that in July, the ICRC distributed 75 tons of food relief to displaced families, plastic sheeting to 1,000 families and were currently in the process of distributing mosquito nets to 5,000 families.

The ICRC has also begun a primary health care program to combat severe lack of health facilities in the Juba Valley and was training local people in 19 villages to deal with common health problems with a minimum of external support, the statement said.

The statement said the ICRC had also responded to appeals to assist in treating the sick and carrying out preventive action in Sool region, where a recent outbreak of cholera had affected many people.

At the same time, an ICRC and SRCS emergency program had helped to save thousands of camels belonging to nomads in the Nugaal region of Garowe, where up to 70 percent of camel herds were found to be suffering from a virulent form of pneumonia at the end of May.

The owners had been faced with a cut in their income as they had to stop selling camel milk, but could not at the same time treat their animals after price of veterinary medicines had increased three-fold on the local market.

Pope Says Child Exploitation Must Be Stopped

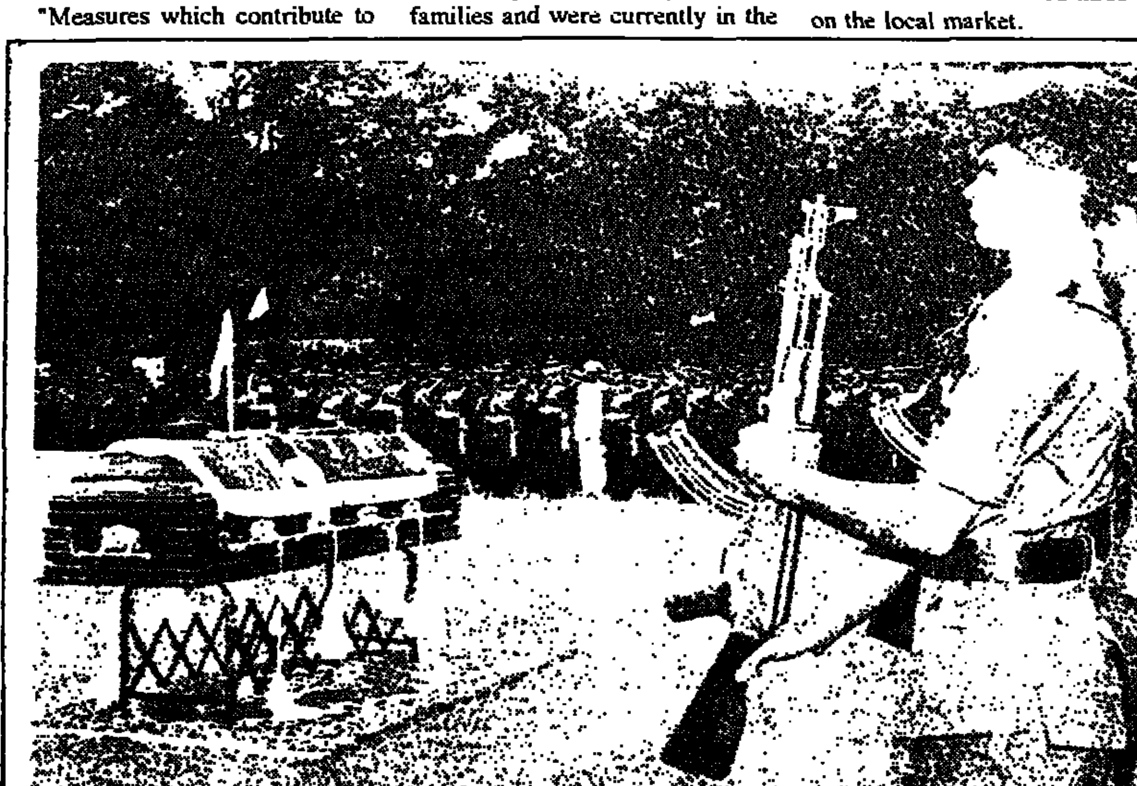
VATICAN CITY (Reuter) – Pope John Paul on Tuesday said governments must act "with all the force of law" to stop the exploitation of children.

Without referring directly to child labor, which has received much international attention in recent months, the Pope said the exploitation and abuse of children was "an evil" which had to be stamped out.

"Throughout the world, and in the Asia-Pacific region especially, there is the growing conviction that more must be done to protect children from abuse and exploitation of any kind," he said at a ceremony to receive the new Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican, Henrietta Tambunting de Villa.

"Governments need to intervene strongly, with all the force of law, against those who harm and scandalize the most defenceless among us," the pontiff said.

"Measures which contribute to



KURUNEGALA, Sri Lanka (July 7): Army soldiers salute as the coffin of slain military commander Ananda Hamangoda is draped in the national flag at a military funeral. Hamangoda was killed along with 36 others aft . Tamil Tiger suicide bombing July 4 aimed at Housing Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva who escaped with a head injury.

(AFP PHOTO)

1,000 Murdered Each Year at Workplace

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Nearly one million people suffer workplace violence and 1,000 are murdered on the job every year, according to a study released here Monday.

According to "Violence in the Workplace: Risk Factors and Prevention Strategies " released by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, "homicide has surpassed machine-related injuries as the second most prevalent cause of death on the job, after motor vehicle accidents."

An average of 20 homicides are committed every week in acts of workplace violence, according to the report.

Taxi drivers have the highest risk of being killed on the job, nearly 60 times the national average rate.

Workers in health care, community services and retail settings are at the greatest risk of non-fatal assaults, the study found.

In 1993, nearly 75 percent of all workplace homicides were robbery related.

"We as a society cannot afford to tolerate violence against working men and women," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.



Hong Kong Sends Home Another 123 Vietnamese

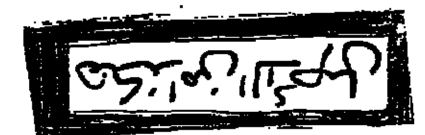
HONG KONG (AFP) – Hong Kong authorities flew home Wednesday another 123 Vietnamese boat people in an attempt to clear the territory of the asylum seekers before the handover of the colony to China next year, a government spokesman said.

The group, including 47 men, 33 women and 43 children, left by air for Hanoi without resistance, after being transferred from a detention camp last week to Victoria prison to await repatriation.

Most arrived in Hong Kong in 1988 from North Vietnam.

The group brought the total number of Vietnamese boat people repatriated under the so-called orderly repatriation program to 3,883 since November 1991.

Authorities planned to deport some 500 Vietnamese in four flights later this month.



Under the Surface, West Jittery About Turkey

BRUSSELS (Reuter) – Officially all is well, but below the surface calm Western nerves are jangling over the arrival in power of Turkey's first Islamic-led government since the overthrow of the Sultans in 1923.

Independent analysts and Western diplomats say Turkey's critical position as a NATO ally straddling Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East guarantees close scrutiny of all the moves of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

"Erbakan knows the rules of the game, he knows how far he can go and he knows we are watching carefully," said one senior NATO source.

His arrival in power has also triggered some soul-searching in Western European capitals over whether they could have given Turkey's pro-Western elite more help in resisting the challenge of Islamists, generally the voice of the country's "have-nots".

"Europe does not know what it wants from Turkey, it has never been clear in its message. It recognizes its strategic importance, but does not take action to anchor a democratic, pluralist state to itself," said Mert Ersin of the European Centre for Studies on Turkey.

That is an argument unofficially supported by many European diplomats who worry that Erbakan's term in power will enable him to place supporters in key positions in the political and economic hierarchy and increase his vote at the next poll.

For years, the European Union kept away from honestly telling Ankara that its hope of gaining full membership was a pipe dream. Even a customs union signed last year has failed to deliver with most of its funds blocked by regional rival Greece, a member of the 15-nation EU.

"The Turkish people were waiting for a clear message from Europe. It did not come, that was a grave mistake," Ersin added.

For the moment, Brussels, Washington, Paris and London all stress the importance of the presence of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party in the coalition with Erbakan's Islam-based Welfare Party.

But such assurances cannot hide the extent of developments in Ankara – an end to six decades of secular-only rule since Mustafa Kemal Ataturk founded the modern republican state.

"Ciller's presence is definitely a calming factor," the source added. Cabinet seats have been shared between the two parties and in two years Ciller – a strong advocate of close links with the West – returns to the office she lost in 1996.



ANKARA, Turkey (July 8): Deputies of Turkey's True Path Party of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Motherland Party of former Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz clash in Parliament after the coalition government of Turkey's first Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan won a parliamentary vote of confidence with 278 deputies voting for it, 265 against.

(AFP PHOTO)

Erbakan, a veteran politician with a record of anti-West rhetoric, has promised to protect democracy, but Washington quickly made it clear he would be judged by deeds not words.

"This is a defense relationship we've got here and there are responsibilities in that relationship, not just rights – responsibilities that Turkey has to the United States that are not lightly taken and should not be lightly dismissed," U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said on Monday.

"Therefore we will work with this government, but we'll work with them on the basis of making sure our own national interests are met," he told a daily briefing for reporters in Washington.

Erbakan has backtracked on earlier vows to end the British, French, American air mission patrolling the skies over northern Iraq, the backbone of operation provide comfort for Kurds trampled by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats say Turkey's role as "grand-father" to the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, its close ties to Israel and stormy relationship with Syria all provide Erbakan with opportunities to take on unwelcome foreign policy initiatives.

But NATO sources believe the initial effect of stable government after nine months of uncertainty could be an easing of tense regional relations with Greece. On Saturday, both countries agreed to call off military exercises in the Aegean Sea during the peak summer holiday period on the prompting of alliance Secretary-General Javier Solana.

"A government with Ciller, still backed by the military, should help on that front," said one alliance diplomat.

Mladic Lies Low Ahead of Arrest Warrant

BELGRADE (Reuter) – Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic is keeping an uncharacteristically low profile as a UN tribunal prepares to issue an international arrest warrant after indicting him twice for war crimes.

The UN War Crimes Tribunal on former Yugoslavia is expected to issue an international arrest warrant on Thursday for the arrest of General Mladic and his political master Radovan Karadzic, making them fugitives from justice worldwide.

Tribunal prosecutors want both men to stand trial for genocide.

The renewed pressure for their extradition to the hague coincides with a UN investigation of mass graves of Muslims massacred in the Serb conquest of Srebrenica in 1995, believed to have been Europe's worst atrocity since World War II.

The tribunal has charged that Karadzic and Mladic controlled the 3-1/2 year siege of Sarajevo, in which some 12,000 civilians died, and ordered the bloody Serb assault on Srebrenica in July 1995.

Prosecutor Mark Harmon, describing the carnage following the attack on Srebrenica, told the tribunal on Monday that Mladic had strutted around, lying to thousands of refugees that nothing would happen to them.

"It is hard to imagine a more callous and calculated deception." As Mladic was speaking, his soldiers had already started their "murderous hinge", Harmon told the court.

At least 3,000 Muslim men and possibly as many as 8,000 were killed as they dashed for safety to Bosnian government territory.

"In the Balkans...Karadzic's and Mladic's perfidious and cowardly deeds will long be remembered," Harmon said.

Mladic's aides argue nothing of the sort has happened and that the general is a victim of western anti-Serb propaganda and what they call a Kangaroo court.

"I will only recognize my people's court, and The Hague tribunal is a political court set up to impose someone's whim," Mladic recently told Greek television.

Mladic, 52, is a flamboyant, audacious and politically adept product of the communist-dominated officer corps of the former Yugoslav federal army.

The son of a partisan fighter killed during World War II, his life has been a microcosm of the emotions and tribal history which generated the Bosnian conflict.

A genuine fighting soldier, the burly, bull-necked Mladic commands in the front line mud alongside his men and they return his commitment accordingly.

He has won over his foes through a mixture of bluff, breathtaking disregard for human life and force of personality.

He used tanks devastatingly in mountain terrain where more conventional generals would hesitate.

Mladic is hated by Muslims, who call him the "hutcher of Bosnia", and adored by Serbs.

In contrast to Karadzic, his extradition to The Hague would be certain to provoke a fierce outcry among the Serbs and his loyal followers in the Yugoslav army.

His leftist ideological commitment has pitted him against the ultra-rightist Karadzic with whom he fell out in early 1995 after accusing him of treason and war profiteering.

But he refused to grasp a chance to oust Karadzic that year, saying it would have been a traitorous act.

Karadzic, fighting for his own life as the west piles pressure on him to step down, exploited Mladic's popularity by organizing rallies in support of both men.

Mladic's closest aides told Reuters that the general had been incensed by Karadzic's "posturing and deceit".

"Karadzic is using Mladic's name and popularity to cover himself. karadzic is trying to convince people that both are in this together, that there is no chasm between the two," one aide said

But unlike Karadzic who has done much to disrupt the peace process and ruined his popularity in the meantime, Mladic has kept a low profile and was instrumental in implementing the military aspect of the Dayton agreement.

His will to cooperate has been grudgingly recongized by diplomats, who privately admit that extradition of the general at this time may not be a good idea.

Courts Deal Double Blow to Political Corruption

PARIS (AFP) – French courts dealt a double blow against political corruption Tuesday, confirming convictions of two ex-ministers including flamboyant ex-soccer boss Bernard Tapie.

A decision confirming Tapie's personal bankruptcy moves him a step closer to political oblivion, while ex-Communications Minister Alain Carignon was slammed for having "committed the most serious act which an elected deputy can commit."

The separate rulings were announced within minutes of each other, in Lyon for Carignon, and in Tapie's case at France's Supreme Court, the Cour de Cassation in Paris.

Tapie, the former star of the French left, risks losing both his French MP's seat and that in the European Parliament after the Cour de Cassation ruling, confirming a conviction for fraudulent bankruptcy handed down in June.

The fiery businessman-turned-politician, who has faced an array of charges in the past two years, immediately announced he would be taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Tapie, a minister under the late Francois Mitterrand, said it was "shocking that someone can be automatically made ineligible by a commercial tribunal's decision announcing his bankruptcy, without any judge having ruled whether this sanction is justified."

The conviction in principle makes him ineligible for public office for five years, and cancels his French parliamentary mandate. But the case will now go before the constitutional council.

For his status as a Euro-MP the procedure for stripping him of his mandate is more complicated, and depends on decisions in Strasbourg. But in both cases Tapie appears increasingly vulnerable.

Meanwhile in Lyon an appeal court upheld a corruption conviction against former conservative minister and mayor of Grenoble Carignon, increasing a jail term handed down to him originally from three years to four.

In a damning confirmation, it said Carignon "committed the most serious act which an elected deputy can commit. He did not hesitate in betraying the confidence of his electors in using his power as mayor to make gain."

Carignon, 46, was forced to resign from his post as communications minister in the government of then Premier Edouard Balladur in July 1994 after a meteoric political career.

During his original trial prosecutors said the main advantage secured by Carignon was the bailing-out for 3.5 million francs by an affiliate of water company Lyonnaise des Eaux of Dauphine News, a loss-making political newspaper.

He also allegedly enjoyed the use of a large apartment on the Boulevard Saint Germain in Paris, an ocean cruiser and both business and pleasure flights in commuter aircraft to the tune of 2.4 million francs.

Carignon was not in court to hear the ruling, and in consequence a warrant was immediately issued for his arrest. His lawyer said he would turn himself in during the day.

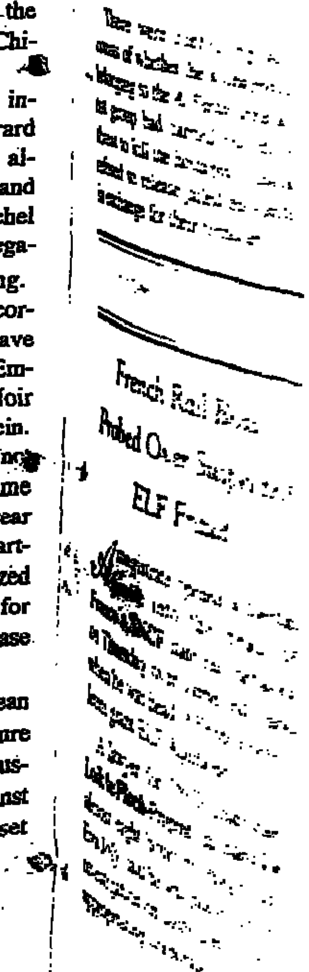
Tapie's and Carignon's cases are just the tip of the iceberg of French political corruption, which led to a number of resignations particularly during the premiership of Balladur, which ended with the election of President Jacques Chirac last May.

Apart from Carignon they included Industry Minister Gerard Longuet, who faced corruption allegations over a Riveria Villa, and Development Aid Minister Michel Roussin who resigned over allegations of illegal political financing.

Other high-profile political corruption cases of recent years have involved socialist head Henri Emmanuelli, Lyon Mayor Michel Noir and Nice Mayor Jacques Medecin.

Serving political leaders have not been spared allegations. Prime Minister Alain Juppe was last year forced to quit his plush Paris apartment after allegations he organized cheap city hall housing deals for himself and his family. The case was discreetly shelved.

More recently Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi came under strong pressure to resign over allegations of a housing scam, but a complaint against him was also subsequently set aside.



International Spectrum



A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THURSDAY, JULY11 1996; TIR 21, 1375; SAFAR 24, 1417

Iran Spectrum

A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD NEWS

Thursday July 4

Yeltsin Heads For Victory

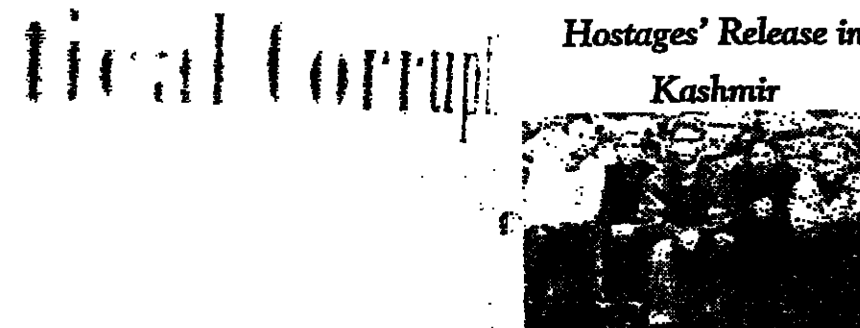


President Boris Yeltsin swept to a stunning victory and a second term Thursday as Russians decisively rejected his communist opponent's call to revive the Soviet Union and its rigid controls.

It was a remarkable triumph for the 65-year-old Yeltsin, who was given almost no hope of re-election at the start of the year.

It also marked another major turning point in Russia's chaotic recent history, with voters rejecting the resurgent Communist Party's call to restore the overwhelming power of the Soviet state and stamp down on the new liberal reforms and personal freedoms.

U.S., Europe Urge Hostages' Release in Kashmir



The U.S. and three European governments appealed Thursday to Kashmiri militants to prove their four Western hostages are still alive, one year after they were abducted while hiking in the Indian Himalayas.

There were conflicting accounts of whether the kidnappers belonging to the *Al-Faran* separatist group had carried out their threat to kill the hostages if India refused to release jailed militants in exchange for their freedom.

Friday July 5

French Rail Boss Probed Over Suspected ELF Fraud

A magistrate opened a formal [illegible] into the head of France's SNCF state rail network on Thursday over suspected fraud when he was head of French petroleum giant ELF-Aquitaine.

A lawyer for SNCF chairman Loik le Floch-Prigent, quizzed for almost eight hours by magistrate Eva Joly, said he was placed under investigation on suspicion of misappropriating corporate funds.

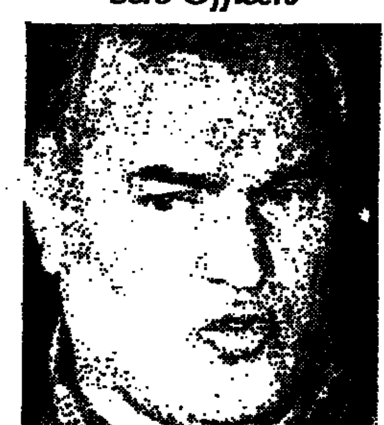
Foreign Car Firms Making Headway in Japan

Foreign cars are making bigger inroads into the traditionally tough Japanese market as motorists, tired of some bland local brands, choose sporty models and sleek styling.

Despite a slowdown in overall car demand in Japan, the number of foreign cars sold here went up in the first half of the year, with U.S. and German cars proving particularly popular, according to sales data released on Thursday.

Saturday July 6

Mladic Asks IFOR to Apologize for Stopping Serb Officers



Bosnian Serb army commander general Ratko Mladic has asked the NATO-led peace implementation force (IFOR) to apologize for alleged stopping two Serb officers, Bosnian Serb television said Friday.

Mladic, an indicted war criminal, sent a letter to General Michael Walker, IFOR's Ground Commander in Bosnia, protesting the alleged stopping of the two high Serb officers.

EU Hits Back at U.S. Over Barriers in Hormone Battle

Europe hit back at the United States Friday in its long-running dispute over the use of growth-promoting hormones in beef production, calling for a WTO panel to adjudicate on trade barriers ordered by Washington.

The EU representative on the World Trade Organization dispute settlement body called for a panel to look into the $90 million worth of tariffs on European agricultural produce, particularly tomatoes and fresh fruit, imposed in 1988 by Washington.

Sunday July 6

Hekmatyar Promises Peace for All

Following the swearing-in of the Afghan Prime Minister, Golboddin Hekmatyar and the oath

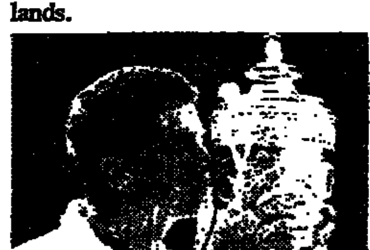


taking ceremony of the members of his cabinet, the new Afghan government officially starts functioning as of Sunday morning.

The Afghan prime minister told foreign and domestic reporters that his cabinet is responsible for putting an end to the war, securing peace, stability and security across the nation, eliminating economic, social and political problems of the people, absorbing all the Jihadi and independence-seeking forces and holding of election for establishment of an elected Islamic government.

Krajicek Is King of Wimbledon

Dutchman Richard Krajicek became the most unheralded Wimbledon men's champion for more than a decade when he steamrollered American Malavai Washington 6-3 6-4 6-3 in a rain-interrupted final. Apart from a 17-year-old Boris Becker in 1985, there has never been an unseeded singles champion at Wimbledon and Krajicek's victory also represented the first grand slam title by a player from the Netherlands.



Monday July 8

3,000 Hindu Activists Arrested



More than 3,000 Hindu opposition activists were arrested here when a demonstration against a steep hike in the price of petroleum products turned violent, police said.

Tuesday, July 9

Russian Forces Start Shelling Chechnya

Russian forces are reported to have begun shelling villages in southern Chechnya, amid signs that both Russians and Chechens are keen to return to fighting after a six-week truce during the run-up to the presidential election.

LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday July 3

Iran, Armenia, Greece to Hold Trilateral Session

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Armenian counterpart Vahan Papazyan in a meeting here on Wednesday agreed to set up a trilateral session involving their respective countries and Greece.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia were to end their session on Thursday with the signing of a trilateral cooperation accord in the transportation, commerce and banking sectors.

President Cuts Ribbon for New Link Road, Dam



In the presence of president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the second phase of the regional link road in northeastern Iran was inaugurated on Wedndsday, connecting the city of Bojnourd to the town of Hokmabad.

The 125-km road which stretches to the Sabzevar-Ferdows-Kerman highway, will facilitate movement of goods between the northeastern cities and the southern ports of the country.

President Rafsanjani in Mazandaran Province

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived the city of Kolaleh in Mazandaran Province Thursday on his return trip to Tehran from northeastern parts of Khorassan Province.

The president reminded the need for building proper physical facilities at which to say daily prayers by many of the travelers who pass through the province on their return trip from neighboring Khorassan Province of Iran that houses the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad.

Thursday July 4

Iran, Bahrain to Stop Propaganda Campaign Against Each Other

Following Syria's mediation between Tehran and Manama, Iran and Bahrain agreed to to stop propaganda campaign against each other, says Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

"We are for good neighborly relations with all of our neighbors including Bahrain," Velayati said in a political round table broadcast by Iranian television Thursday evening.



By taking the first step towards removing misunderstanding between Iran and Bahrain, Syria intends to proceed with its meidation efforts until other steps are taken in this regard, the foreign minister said.

President: U.S. Seizure of Iranian Assets 'Historical Criminal Act'

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in an address on the anniversary of the illegal seizure of the Iranian assets by the U.S. government termed the freezing of our assets in 1980 as a "historical criminal act".

"We will certainly bring the United States to justice at international tribunals one day to be condemned (for its criminal act)," the president who was giving a cermon at the large Friday prayer gathering of Tehran.

Friday July 5

Iranian Students Rank 4th in Physics Olympiad

The five-member team of Iranian students, by securing one gold and four silver medals, ranked fourth at the 27th International Physics Olympiad, held in Oslo, Norway.

All the five Iranian medalists are from the Iranian National Organization for Development of Special Talents. Sina Valadkhan won the Gold medal.

Students from 55 different countries contested in the olympiad in which China, Romania, the U.S. and the Islamic Republic of Iran ranked first to fourth, respectively.

Many Iranian POWs Still in Iraq Hold IRC Cards

The leader's representative in charge of the ex-POWs' affairs, Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Aboutorabi responded to the Iraqi regim's denial that a group of Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) are still held in captivity in Iraq.

In an interview with the *Tehran Times*, he referred to claims made by Iraqi regime saying that all the Iranian POWs have already been released.



Saturday July 6

225 Kgs of Narcotics Seized in Yazd

As Much as 225 kilograms of narcotics were seized from traffickers in various parts of the province between 21st and 30th of June, according to director of ideological and political Department of Yazd Hojjatoleslam Mohammd Ali Rabbani.

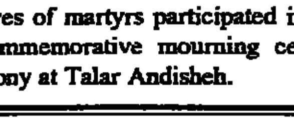
Among other items seized from smugglers were 206 refrigerators, television sets, freezers, washing machines, vaccum cleaners and 94 bicycles.

Sunday, July 7

Iran Draped in Black Mourn for Imam Hossein

On the occasion of 'Arba'een' (20th of the lunar Hejira month of Safar) that marks the 40th day after the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS), the third imam and rightful successor of the Prophet's (S) Household on the 10th Moharram of the lunar Hejira year 61, rela-





tives of martyrs participated in a commemorative mourning ceremony at Talar Andisheh.

Monday July 8

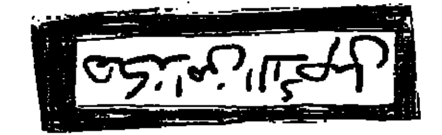
OIC Expert Meeting on Telecommunications Opens

The expert meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on telecommunications opened in Tehran on Monday to prepare grounds for developing technological know-how in the 52 member organization.

Tuesday, July 9

Iran, Laos Discuss Promotion of Ties

Foreign Ministers of Iran and Laos exchanged views on expansion of bilateral relations as well as key regional and International issues during their first round of talks here.



هكذا من الأصل

Travelogue

We Won't See Them Anymore

Tehran Times Service

Of the five thousand tribes still living as they did thousands of years ago, a number are heading for extinction.

Anyone, anytime can take a giant step back into the past and return home again, thanks to an extraordinary invention that has revolutionized world travel--the airplane. Today it takes only a few hours to travel from our sitting room to the dunes of the desert, the vast expanses of the savanna or the tropical forests where populations live exactly the way they did thousands of years ago.



Two Tanzanian Masai tribesmen.

Yet, modern means of travel only serve to heighten our realization that all mankind are not the benefactors of the modern way of life. Coming across an ethnic group or primitive tribe is somewhat like stepping into the world of our ancestors. The hunting methods, the huts, the tools and often even the rites are the same as those we would observe if we were to make a journey back into recent prehistory. Indeed some of these populations have a level of technological knowledge corresponding to that of the Cro-Magnon man who painted the splendid frescos in the Lascaux caves, some 15 to 25 thousand years ago. Others still live as they did just before the invention of agriculture which dates back to around 8000 B.C. While yet others live in small communities not unlike those that existed before the invention of the alphabet and of the wheel, etc.

Who are these castaways of time? Where do they live? And how do they live? It would be impossible to list the hundreds of groups that are in danger of extinction, of the more than 5,000 tribal ethnic groups that, according to some United Nations estimates, still exist in the world today.

For this week's celebration of Tourism Week, we take a look at the vanishing ethnic or tribal groups whose way of life continue to lure tourists all over the world. What we will do is take an imaginary journey around the world to look at some of the most threatened tribes. This journey in time we will still be able to make in our time machine for only a few more years as these peoples are doomed to rapid and inexorable extinction.

Our first stop is in Tanzania, south of Lake Eyasi, where the last Hadza live in the arid savanna. The Tanzanian government is trying, without success, to get these nomad hunters to settle down. Physically they look very like the Bushmen. Their skin is brown rather than black and the tattoos on their faces--wrinkle-like lines--snake from their foreheads to their necks. They gather tubers and hunt antelopes, giraffes and baboons with poisoned arrows and traps. Showing uncommon courage they even attack hyennas and lions to snatch their freshly-killed prey.



A dancer of the [illegible]



They are difficult to forget: shy, agreeable, gentle-mannered people. When they speak it sounds like a series of clicks, strange guttural sounds that do not exist in our languages. The only way to communicate with them is by gesturing and they reply with unfailing and spontaneous smiles. You feel at ease with them right away, as with old friends, and it is a very pleasant experience. But it is also sad as there are only a few thousand of them left. And so they are destined to disappear in the near future because they have nobody--except the savanna--to defend them.

You get the same feeling among the Pygmies in the Ituri forest in Zaire who live not far away from the Hadza. The biggest hurdle to overcome is to get in touch with them. You do not meet Pygmies on the precarious dirt roads that wind through the forest because the most interesting groups, with intact cultural traditions, keep well off the beaten path and live deep in the tropical jungle. They are the ones who decide to make contact and not the other way around.

They live in groups of 15 to 20 in simple huts that look like small igloos made of branches with leafy walls. Accompanied by their inseparable dogs (which are every bit as tiny as their masters) they are great hunters. A Pygmy warrior, his body smeared with dung to "camouflage" himself with the forest odors, can come close enough to an elephant to plunge a lance into the pachyderm's belly and then flee. The group begins celebrating when the elephant takes its last breath after a long, slow death.

The jovial, sociable Pygmies love music and dancing and the ceremonies last for hours and even all night. If you want to be accepted as a welcome guest then bring plenty of salt with you. Salt is totally missing in their diet and they will line up, holding leaves folded into little cups, to take this delicacy. It is a moving scene. Nobody knows how many Pygmies are left in the world, but the hostility that surrounds them and the rapid disappearance of the prey and forest on which they depend, are the main threats to their survival.



Australian aborigines preparing for a ceremony.

There are many ethnic groups at risk in Africa like the Pygmies and the Hadza. Some of the best known are the Bushmen and the long-limbed, statuesque Nuba of Kurfan in southern Sudan. Although there are many Nuba, very little is known about them as they live in an area which is subject to frequent guerrilla warfare and clashes. However, their culture seems destined to disappear.



[illegible] tribal wedding dance in Sudan. The extinction of this group will also wipe out their culture.

If we leave Africa behind and reach the American hemisphere, the Amazon basin is the last refuge of populations bound for extinction. As long as 20 years ago groups like the Wausha, Tucuna and Paumari had been reduced to a few hundred individuals while others like the Suya or the Trumai in Mato Grossohad only 50 to 70 members.

The Yanomamos, who live in a small area between Brazil and Venezuela, and the Brazilian Xingu are emblematic of this precarious survival. Although the Xingu now live in a large park, the presence of gold hunters (the *Garimpeiros*) and diamond hunters (*Diamanteros*) as well as the hordes of tourists bring the threat of deadly diseases like measles. In other areas the threat comes from rubber gatherers, loggers or small communities that live in near distitution along the roads that cut through the forests. When it is not a microorganism or a gun to threaten these tribes it is the slow but insidious impact with the products of our consumer society that is changing their way of life and gradually eroding their culture. Even for those who go there to make documentaries, finding a typical Yanomamo village with its characteristic elongated, circular roof becomes increasingly difficult.

And it is horrifying to think that up to a short while ago "Indian hunts" were still being organized for those looking for real adventure holidays.

The Cuna who live on the tiny coral San Blas Islands in the Caribbean have been much more fortunate. Nowadays tourists fly in to visit the same 20,000 Cuna who live on fishing and handicrafts (much prized wood carvings and brightly-colored woven panels). It is strange to think that once all the islands in the Caribbean and in the Gulf of Mexico were populated with similar ethnic groups: the arrival of Columbus and of diseases wiped them out in less than no time. The colored ethnic groups that live in Cuba, Haiti, Santo Domingo, etc. are the descendants of the black African slaves "imported" to take the place of the original ethnic workers.

Of all the tribes on the American continent perhaps one of the most seriously threatened is the Lacandones, of whom a mere 200 are left in a small area between Mexico and Guatemala. To see them in their threadbare tunics it is hard to believe that they are, culturally speaking, the last descendants of the Mayas who also disappeared mysteriously before the Spaniards arrived--a race destined to disappear twice.

At the other end of the world, in Asia, there are many ethnic groups in danger of extinction like the

(Contd on Pg 3)

Tourist feedback

Iran, the Land of Cordiality and Hospitality

The present report has been prepared at the end of a 15-day tour of an Italian group invited to Iran which was sponsored by Iran Tourist Institute. They visited different Iranian cities and met with amicable, hospitable, and befriending people. In our talks, they pointed to Iranians' warmth and Europeans' bias to distort the realities concerning Iran. The group was thankful for being received with high esteem and broad smiles. They appreciated the effort people made — sometimes beyond customary limits — for the group's convenience. They considered Iran as the land of cordiality and honesty.

Shrine of Hazrat Ma'soomeh

We started the conversation in a friendly atmosphere with an Italian engineer.

Ferruccio Testore, a chemical engineer, at the end of his 15-day tour expressed his surprise about Iranian high standards of living and emphasized, "I could not believe that I could finish this journey without any difficulty, but there was no difficulty whatsoever."

Testore said: "I visited several metropolitan area; all the roads were paved with asphalt." he added, "I had visited many countries in five continents, including Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and some other countries in this area. But I can tell the standard of living in Iran is much higher than any other."

Testore, in reference to Iranian cordiality and sociability toward their group said, "Although we did not speak the same language, we understood each other perfectly; for example during our visit of Ali Sadr Cave at Hamedan, a group of students displayed goodwills." Referring to his not having any difficulty in getting a visa, he said, "The only thing was that the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy asked for ladies' veiled photographs which later was rationally taken care of."

Dr. Sigari, the tour leader, pointed to a good opportunity that caused ties between the Italians in the group and their Iranian fellow travelers and said: "The tour members were impressed by Iranians' behavior into making a poem:

You Iranians treated us ten Italians so delicately,

In the gardens of Shiraz, in streets of Yazd and Kerman,

On hills and valleys, over mountains and in historical and Islamic monuments,

You went beyond your means to pamper us. You received us warmly and respectfully. We found Iran as we had dreamed.

We wish we could come back to your country.

Sara, 25 years old, was another member of the group who had visited other Arab countries and sensed the difference between those countries and Iran. With the help of one of the tour leaders, she visited one of the religious leaders in Qom and paid homage to Her holiness Ma'soomeh's shrine, the sister of Shia's eighth Imam.

Dr, Sigari believed, "The members of the group, considering their occupation and social class, were prominent personages who knew about Persia — ancient Iran — much better than most of Iranians, and highly valued Iranian national and cultural heritage." He added, "After becoming familiar with how 'Iran Tourist Institute' worked, I decided to invite this Italian group and acquaint them with Iranians and their cultural heritage. I wanted to show the falsehood of the propaganda trying to picture post-Revolution Iran as an unstable and unsafe country."

Dr. Sigari also believed, "Tourism is important in both cultural exchange and economy."

He considered a logical attitude toward tourism a major factor in countering the false propaganda. He concluded that companies in charge of tourism should be facilitated , and Islamic Republic of Iran's embassies all over the world be more acquainted with other nations' cultures to take a more active role in tourism.

"Although we did not speak the same language, we understood each other perfectly".





Ten Italians to their hosts: "You pampered us, you went beyond customary means to treat us kindly while taking us on tours of Shiraz, Yazd, Kerman and other cities, you received us with a broad smile and due respect."



Arg-e Bam

Sara Salomone who was a native of Palermo, Sicily. further added, "This thought has been instilled into the minds of Europeans that Iran participates in terrorist acts and it stops people particularly ladies from traveling to Iran. But, I personally knew before my visit that they were not true and now I am certain." She further added, "I would like to recommend traveling to Iran to my relatives and friends."

Sara found Yazd a more interesting place and said, "I enjoyed Yazd's Borj Sokoot — the Tower of Silence — and enjoyed watching Zoroastrian related places and things because of my major at the university." Sara who was acquainted with Arabic talked about Islam. "I have some information about Islam and a little about the Islamic culture which I believe in." Sara also believed that Iran was different from other Islamic and Arabic countries.

Adriano Mozzio from Milan, was a university professor and an engineer who had traveled to Iran for the first time. Adriano said, "Everything was interesting for me. In my opinion, there is no historical monument in Iran that you can see and not respect." He added, "Most of the services rendered were up to standard, but you should pay more attention to the details. The expenses in Iran were less than most of other countries e.g. Europe, the United States, and even Egypt, Syria and Turkey."

Apadana Palace, Takht-e Jamshid

"Although we did not speak the same language, we understood each other perfectly". Ten Italians to their hosts: "You pampered us, you went beyond customary means to treat us kindly while taking us on tours of Shiraz, Yazd, Kerman and other cities, you received us with a broad smile and due respect." Dr. Sigari, the tour leader, "Tourism is very important in the sense that we learn from them and they from us."



Masooleh, Northwestern Iran

Giuseppina Diguida, a history and geography teacher, loved Iranians for their kindness and cordiality. He found Takhte-Jamshid and Naghshe Rostam more interesting and Shish Kabob most delicious.

(Courtesy the SILKROAD)

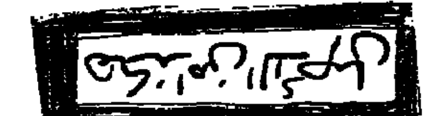
(Contd from Pg. 2)

WE...

Kadar and the Bondo of Orissa or the Bhil and the Tadavo who are threatened with a diaspora of Biblical proportions because of the new dam that is being built in the Narmada Valley (the same fate wiped out the Vedda hunters in Sri Lanka).

The list could go on and on and include the extreme degradation in which the last 248,000 Australian aborigines live, prey to alcoholism and disease although the Australian government is doing its best to stop the loss of the aborigines' cultural identity. Then there are the attempts being made by the Indonesian government to transfer the population of Irian Jaya. And the progressive disappearance of the Aiome Pygmies in New Guinea. In all these areas it is often the slow but inexorable introduction of the Western way of life and products that are changing habits and rites that have remained unchanged for millenia. All that is left of the famous stone-axe makers is a documentary of the Ligabue Study and Research Center in Venice. These extraordinary stone craftsmen have given up making their axes. Perhaps because they realized that they were the only ones still doing so. (Courtesy of *Ulisse2000*, October 1994.)





TODAY IN HISTORY

1978 - Truck carrying industrial gas explodes and sets fire to campsite on Mediterranean coast in Spain, killing at least 180 people.

1987 - United Nations proclaims newborn boy Matej Gaspar in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, as world's five billionth inhabitant.

1990 - Hundreds of thousands of miners in the Ukraine hold a one-day strike to protest the policies of the Soviet government.

1991 - Jetliner carrying Nigerian pilgrims crashes in flames in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, killing all 261 people on board. Moon moves between the Earth and Sun in century's final total eclipse.

1992 - Manuel Noriega sentenced to 40 years in prison.

1993 - President Clinton visits Panmunjom, Korea, vows to maintain U.S. military readiness in Asia, and warns North Korea it faces ruin if it develops and uses nuclear weapons.

1994 - North Korea's apparent new leader, Kim Jong Il, lays a wreath at the bier of his father and plays a prominent role in a television broadcast of the mourning.

CANDID CAMERA



A scene from the film "The Bells".

Tehran Times-Abbas Takin

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1977 — U.S. President Jimmy Carter goes on record as favoring development of neutron bomb, saying it would provide flexibility because of its less destructive effect.

1987 — Lebanon's Justice Minister Nabih Berri calls for declaration of "economic state of emergency" to cope with nation's worst financial crisis in 12 years of civil war.

1990 — Boris Yeltsin resigns the Communist Party during the 28th meeting of the party congress.

1991 — Five permanent members of UN Security Council tell Iraq's ambassador his country must swiftly disclose extent of its nuclear program or face serious consequences.

1992 — Pope John Paul II is hospitalized for test and possible surgery for an intestinal problem.

1993 — Earthquake in northern Japan unleashes landslides and tidal waves, killing nearly 200.

1994 — Palestinian leader Yaser Arafat, ending a 27-year exile, moves to the Gaza Strip.

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Mongolia

The Reindeer People

A fascinating glimpse of a unique nomadic lifestyle unchanged for centuries.

Tehran Times Service
(Part II)

Raising reindeer is the main activity of the Tsaatan. Each member participates, whether man, woman or child. But their lives include other activities: the men hunt and fish and the women do the rest—which is quite a lot.

A Tsaatan woman's work permits no rest. Her duties include taking the reindeer out to pasture when her husband is away hunting, milking the deer once a day in winter and twice in summer, and tagging the deer by cutting a letter into the coat using a large pair of scissors. Then there's the preparation of a variety of milk products, collecting berries, cooking, educating the children, looking after the *urt*, cutting wood and tracking down stray reindeer on horseback.

By comparison, the hunting life of the men seems almost leisurely.

They hunt wild reindeer, the mountain stag and roedeer, foxes and other small animals.

Even small-scale hunting expeiditons take at least a week. The Tsaatan have two hunting techniques. Either they move in a group, organizing hunting beats to drive animals into the center of the group or they go off alone and pick off animals individually using their rifles which are usually old and decrepit, dating back to World War II.

The reindeer do not actually belong to the Tsaatan. Although they feed, care for and pamper the animals, the reindeer remain state property owing to an edict passed by the (former) USSR in 1930 when the mountainous territories were divided into districts and cooperatives, each with its own leader.

Each of the Tsaatan camps was raided by the authorities and the livestock taken out and redistributed in the name of the state.

This took its toll generally on Mongolia but none suffered more from the action than the Tsaatan who headed back to their mountains dumbfounded with a list of regulations and fines payable if even one of their officially numbered reindeer was lost. The tough Tsaatan lifestyle became even more difficult. They took home slaries but no longer had control of their herds.

In 1981 the government grouped all the Tsaatan around Sagaan-Nuur–White Lake–on the lower slopes in an attempt to settle them. Sparkling new homes were built for them and approximately 300 agreed to stay and work in the fields, having abandoned their reindeer.

The few who continue to live a nomadic life according to their tradition seek refuge behind the pride of their culture and the heights of their surroundings.

But how long will this last? The group is breaking apart. There is a school located on the lower slopes and the children go down to attend and often do not return.

In other cases, families that are too attached to their children follow them, leaving the reindeer in order to settle down.

But the final disappearance of the Tsaatan way of life may result from the very closeness of the group.

The last Tsaatan are all members of the same few families. There are only around 80 of them left and in order to preserve their lineage, they are currently making efforts to marry members of other Mongolian ethnic groups.

If they succeed, they will undoubtedly be more numerous, but also dispersed and on the decline, thinned out by the blood of others.

The life of a Tsaatan is a difficult one but daily hardship is the price they pay for their purity and their nomadic freedom. (Reprinted from *Hello*, July 9, 1994.)

(CONCLUDED)



When the time comes to move on, every possession has its place on the back of a reindeer, especially the Tsaatan children.



Aside from tending reindeers, life for a Tsaatan woman means endless household work from dawn to dusk inside her urt (tent) in the coldest of temperatures.

Answers to last week's QUICKIE

Across: 3. Safe 7. Demon 9. Vole 10. Wig 11. Lair 15. Reject 17. Chair 19. Ounce 20. Cat 21. Flog 22. Agog 23. Bee 24. Refer 26. Super 27. Detest 30. Silt 31. Sty 33. Mane 34. Speak 35. Jest

Down: 1. New 2. Bog 4. Fair 5. Poke 6. Best 8. Miracle 12. Rehearse 13. Act 14. Progress 16. Crag 18. Knife 20. Compete 21. Fete 25. Dry 27. Dumb 28. Tone 29. Tire 31. Spa 32. Yak.

Answers to Last Week's Brain Teaser:

Abigail, Antonia, Alison, Amelia, Angela, Alexandra.
Mystery word: Natasha.

Stories of Nasreddin

Ask the Mule

His friends mounted Nasreddin on a mule, but a very obstinate one, to play a game with him.

As soon as Nasreddin got on the animal it began to shake him wildly. Realizing that he might fall down immediately Nasreddin held on to the saddle tight and the mule ran as fast as it could.

His friends shouted after him:

- Where are you going Nasreddin?

Nasreddin struggling with animal and trying to stay on the saddle answered back:

- Don't ask me ask the mule.

